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F.O. 413/49

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413

PART 37.

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING THE

AFFAIRS OF MOROCCO.

49

April to June 1908.

F.O. 413 / 49
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PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

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PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

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Further Correspondence respecting the Affairs of Morocco.

Part 37.

[11275] No. 1.

Sir F. Bertie to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received April 3.)

(No. 138.)

Paris, April 1, 1908.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 134 of the 28th ultimo, I have the honour to report that the Senate yesterday voted the special credit for the cost of the military operations in Morocco, which was passed by the Chamber of Deputies on the 27th ultimo.

In the course of the debate M. de Lamarzelle (Nationalist) criticized the Anglo-French Convention of 1904, and stated that this Treaty was responsible for the difficulties with which France was confronted in Morocco.

M. Pichon defended the Convention in a speech of which I inclose the text herein,* and spoke at some length on the importance to France of the Act of Algeciras as affording a justification for her action in Morocco.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FRANCIS BERTIE.

[11421] No. 2.

Mr. White to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received April 4.)

(No. 73.)

Tangier, March 28, 1908.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 71 of the 21st instant, I have the honour to report that the French cruiser "Cassard" arrived here to-day, having returned from Cape Juby viâ Madeira.

The French Chargé d'Affaires informs me that the rescue of the crew of the "Baleine" gave rise to no difficulty, as the vessel had been wrecked quite close to Cape Juby, and the crew were able to take refuge at once with the Moorish Government in the fort built by the North-West Africa Company at that place. They were thus never in the hands of the natives or really captive at all.

The Captain of the "Cassard" reports that he found the Moorish Governor of Cape Juby in a bad situation, as his troops had all deserted, not having received any pay for about two years. The fort was thus occupied merely by the Governor and his deputy, with their families and servants, who were living on short rations, the Moorish Government having omitted to send them supplies. On the arrival of the French sailors the Governor had provided them with rifles and ammunition to enable them to help to defend the fort in case an attack was made with a view to carrying them off.

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The French Chargé d'Affaires said that the sailors of the "Baleine" had complained that they had been ill fed whilst they were at the fort, but that he considered the complaint absurd, as the Governor was not in a position to feed them better. They might consider themselves very lucky not to have fallen into the hands of the natives, when they would probably have had considerable hardships to endure, and their release would have taken time to effect.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

[11422] No. 3.

Mr. White to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received April* 4.)

(No. 74.)
Sir,

Tangier, March 28, 1908.

THE Spanish Legation has on several occasions in past years entered into negotiations with the Moorish Government with a view to obtaining a water supply for Ceuta, either by a cession of land at Beliunish (Bullones), on which there are many springs affording a plentiful supply of good water, or by the construction of an aqueduct from that place. The Moorish Government has, however, always declined hitherto to entertain any proposal of this nature, and the matter was again brought forward by the late Spanish Minister on his recent mission to Rabat, and is still under discussion between the Spanish Legation and the Makhzen.

In the meantime it appears that the Governor of Ceuta has been endeavouring to settle the matter by direct negotiation with the fraction of the Anjera tribe inhabiting that district.

Sid Guebbas informs me that a short time since the Governor of Ceuta sent for the Beliunish people and urged them to sell the land in question, saying that it would be better for them to sell it, for otherwise they might at some time have it taken away from them by others. They, however, refused to sell, and the matter dropped for a time.

Some days ago the Governor of Ceuta again sent for these people and renewed his request for the sale of the land, which he promised to leave in their occupation. The men, however, again refused, but expressed their willingness to sell the water to vessels that might call at Benzus Bay. The Governor then expressed the intention of going out to see the springs, but objections were raised to this on the grounds that in the present state of the district it would give rise to trouble. The Governor, however, replied that he intended to go there even if it entailed a fight.

The Anjera, who fear that it is the intention of the Governor to take possession of their land by force, sent a deputation to make their complaint to Sid Torres. Sid Guebbas informed me that M. Merry del Val had called upon him when reports appeared in the press a short time since on the subject, and informed him that the Spanish Government had no intention of occupying Beliunish. Sid Guebbas, however, observed to me that the action of the Governor of Ceuta was not in keeping with this statement. He had communicated to the Spanish Minister the complaint of the Anjera men, and was now awaiting the reply of the Spanish Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

[12421] No. 4.

Sir G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received April* 11.)

(No. 76.)
Sir,

Tangier, April 4, 1908.

WITH reference to Mr. White's despatch No. 74 of the 28th ultimo reporting the question which had arisen between the Governor of Ceuta and the Anjera tribe respecting the water supply at Beliunish, I was to-day informed by Sid Torres that he had yesterday received a protest from the Anjera tribe against the action of the Governor of Ceuta, who had on the previous day gone out with about forty horsemen to visit the springs at Beliunish. Fortunately this visit was quite unexpected, and the tribesmen only heard of it too late to permit of them making any counter-demonstration,

as they had threatened to do. What tribesmen did collect did not reach the spot until after the Governor and his party had returned to Ceuta.

In their protest, Sid Torres informs me, the chief men of the tribe divest themselves of all responsibility for any regrettable incident that may ensue should the Spaniards repeat their visit to that district, and they profess their inability to restrain their more impetuous fellow-tribesmen. They fear, should anything happen, that the whole tribe will be held responsible.

Sid Guebbas, who was with Sid Torres, took the opportunity of this incident to refer to the action of Spain at Mar Chica and Cabo de Agua, and to express his conviction that Spain was taking advantage of the difficulties in which the Moorish Government at present finds itself to get a footing on Moorish territory on the Mediterranean littoral. His Excellency told me that the protest of the Anjera tribe was being sent to the Spanish Minister in writing, as he was of opinion that the incident is of too great importance to allow of him confining himself to merely a verbal communication, as, in the event of anything occurring between the Anjera and the Spaniards, the responsibility would certainly be thrown by Spain on the Moorish Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

[12423] No. 5.

Sir G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received April* 11.)

(No. 78.)
Sir,

Tangier, April 4, 1908.

VISITING my colleagues on my return from England, I was somewhat struck by the violence of the anti-French language of the Italian Minister with regard to affairs in Morocco.

Dr. Nerazzini has never been very well disposed towards the French, and I have always suspected that his intolerance must date back to some previous experience in his semi-diplomatic career.

When I visited him yesterday he indulged in a violent tirade against the action of France here. He being himself a strong, though not avowed, supporter of Muley Hafid, considered it dishonest of the French Government to give practical support to the present Sultan here, while declaring in the Chamber that they were maintaining a strictly impartial attitude between the Sultan and his brother. How could the French Government reconcile it to its conscience to speak of a pacific attitude, when to his knowledge their troops had on the 15th ultimo shot down and even bayoneted hundreds of defenceless women and children.

Dr. Nerazzini declared that though he was well informed as to the true facts of the proceedings in the Showia, the public of Europe was taken in by the versions published by the French Government and press. The French had suffered many reverses, and the star of Muley Hafid was in the ascendant. Dr. Nerazzini was anxious to know whether the British Government were not prepared to modify their support of the French Government here, and whether there was no chance of another Government in England adopting an attitude of greater reserve in that policy. I was not quite convinced that I ought to take my colleague's statements and questions very seriously, but I told him that His Majesty's Government had no intention whatever of withdrawing their support from the French Government. This attitude, I added, was clearly laid down by the Agreements of 1904, and in this respect there was no difference of opinion in the two great political parties in England.

My Austrian colleague was much more reserved in his criticism of French action, and confessed that it was very difficult to obtain reliable information as to what had actually occurred recently in the Showia. But he was much puzzled to know what the French policy in this country really was. My Spanish colleague, with whom I was not previously acquainted, was very loyal to the French in all his observations.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

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[12424] No. 6.

Sir G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received April* 11.)

(No. 79.)

Tangier, April 5, 1908

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you herewith a summary of news based on reports received at His Majesty's Legation during the past week.

I have, &c.

(Signed) G. LOWTHER.

Inclosure in No. 6.

Summary of News for week ending April 5, 1908.

NO apparent change with regard to French policy in the Showia has so far resulted from the mission of M. Regnault and General Lyautey. They have been at Bershid since the 25th ultimo. It is stated from Casa Blanca that the method of punitive expeditions is to be abandoned, and that a system of detached posts will be established in the district, with constant intercommunication by means of patrols. Fighting on the old lines, however, was continued on the 29th and 30th ultimo, when the Emdakra were engaged, with a loss of two officers and eight men killed to the French, and some wounded. The losses of the Moors are not estimated. They brought a gun into use against the French, and are said to have handled it with some accuracy. The submission of the Emdakra is expected, but some other tribes of the Bershid refuse to acknowledge Abd-el-Aziz, though willing to submit to the French. But the French will not accept this distinction.

Negotiations between the French and Mulai Hafid are said to be still in progress, but nothing is reported in regard to them. The uncertainty which has surrounded his position and intentions continues. There is a belief that he will shortly retire to Marakesh, probably based on the fact that his wives and women and those of his Viziers have left the camp and returned there. It is equally asserted that he has lately received considerable accessions of strength from the tribes, and that he will shortly cross the Um-er-Rebia, beside which he is still camped. Meanwhile his authority appears to hold good in Fez. He is in occasional communication with the Governor, and recently, by his orders, guards were put over the houses and property of Abd-el-Aziz's Viziers and officials now absent at Rabat, it is supposed with a view to disposing of them in the interests of the Pretender's cause. The richer inhabitants have voluntarily raised a sum of about 10,000*l.* for the defence of the town in the improbable event of an attack by the Sultan's force now being organized at Rabat. Efforts are being made in Fez to secure that the neighbouring tribes shall resist any advance from that quarter, and the Sherarda and the Beni Hassan have requested to be supplied with arms for the purpose.

There has been no recent news from Rabat, but M. Gaillard, who is at present at Casa Blanca, informs Mr. Madden that the indecision of the Sultan and his indifference to everything but his personal safety are very discouraging to his partisans.

(Initialled) C. R.

April 5, 1908.

[13070] No. 7.

Treasury to Foreign Office.—(*Received April* 15.)

Treasury Chambers, April 14, 1908.

Sir,

IN reply to Mr. Langley's letter of the 27th ultimo, I am directed by the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury to state, for the information of Secretary Sir E. Grey, that in their opinion a fee of 50 guineas a week with a minimum of 300 guineas, to cover all expenses except those of locomotion, would be sufficient remuneration for the barrister to be appointed as British representative on the International Commission at Casa Blanca.

My Lords sanction the expenditure necessary for a clerk to assist the barrister as requested.

As regards the 5 per cent. abatement from the claims to cover the above and other expenses of the Commission, my Lords see no objection to the distribution *pro rata* among the claimants of any sum remaining over from the amount deducted from the total after all the expenses of the Commission have been met. Or an amount might be deducted *pro rata* at the conclusion of the Commission to cover all expenses as finally ascertained.

I am, &c.

(Signed) G. H. MURRAY.

[13277] No. 8.

Sir G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received April* 18.)

(No. 80. Confidential.)

Tangier, April 11, 1908.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith translation of a document giving in a condensed form the request put forward by the late Spanish Minister when at Court and the replies given thereto. This document was given to me in confidence by Sid Mehemmed-el-Guebbas, and is of certain interest, as a number of the requests contained in it would appear to foreshadow recent Spanish action in the neighbourhood of the Spanish posts at Ceuta and in the Riff country.

Sid Guebbas informs me that further negotiations are now being conducted between the Spanish Minister and the Moorish Government, and in a fresh Memorandum submitted by Señor Merry del Val Nos. 3, 11, 12, 15, 16, 19, 20, and 21 have been omitted.

Request No. 5 is for the exemption of food-stuffs, &c., from duty when passing the Moorish custom-house established on the boundary outside Melilla, and is not intended to include Melilla in the ports to which a "cabotage" trade may be carried on with Moorish posts.

Request No. 20 is for permission to erect loose stone walls below the level of low tide, but covered at high tide, to act as traps in which to catch fish, which, coming in with the tide, are left in the inclosures so formed when the tide recedes, a manner of catching fish already practised on a small scale in parts of Morocco.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

Inclosure in No. 8.

Memorandum of the Matters spoken about by the Spanish Minister at the Shereefian Court, and of the Replies given to him. Written on Hajja 20, 1325.

(Translation.)

THE Minister requests that the site to be settled upon be given to the Spanish Government for the purpose of fishing in conformity with the Tetuan Treaty of Peace.

Reply.—The Makhzen acknowledges the contents of that Treaty and is ready to fulfil it, but, owing to the condition of the people at the present moment, it is impossible to carry out the handing over of the site. The Makhzen therefore requests the Spanish Government to postpone this matter until signs of tranquillity and peace appear in the Houz district. Immediately the Shereefian forces reach Marakesh a communication will be sent to fix the site and its boundaries, in conjunction with a communication to be sent on behalf of the Spanish Government; the site will then be handed over.

2. The Minister requests that an end be put to the disturbances occurring in the neighbourhood of Melilla, in order that the injury caused thereby to the inhabitants of Melilla may cease.

Reply.—The Makhzen is concerned with putting a stop to these disturbances and in causing peace and security to reign in that district, and so soon as the country is tranquillized the Makhzen will prepare a sufficient force to put it under the command of one who will give his attention to putting an end to the disturbances and remove the harm caused hereby to Melilla, so that security and tranquillity will reign in that district.

The Makhzen trust that the Spanish Government will use its good offices so that injury will not result to either of the Governments as regards the loyalty of the Riff to the Makhzen, and that it will prevent all who may wish to harm them by such means as will not necessitate a force going out for the purpose.

3. The Minister asks that all privileges granted to France on her frontiers shall be similarly conceded to Spain as regards the regions near Melilla, and that these privileges shall include the commerce existing between the Melilla and the neighbouring country, and he also asks that a promise be given that similar treatment will be extended in the future to Spain as regards her other territories adjoining Morocco in such a manner as the Shereefian Makhzen shall agree to. This is based upon the most-favoured-nation clause in the Treaty of Commerce.

Reply.—The condition of the country bordering on the Spanish posts is different from those of the frontier with France, and the Treaties drawn up with each of these Powers are based on the conditions appertaining in each particular place; moreover, the Makhzen has not conceded any privileges to France on its frontier regions, and it is therefore unnecessary to put forward this request, as the rights of the Spanish Government are respected by the Makhzen both now and henceforward.

4. The Minister requests that the harm caused to the residents of Melilla by the prohibition against going beyond the boundaries to trade with the Riff tribes be removed in accordance with Article VI of the Treaty drawn up at Fez the 15 Rabia I, 1283.

Reply.—The Makhzen will undertake to confirm the residents of Melilla in the right they at present enjoy of going out beyond their boundaries to trade with their neighbours of the Riff tribes from respect to the wishes of the Spanish Government, but on condition that no responsibility shall rest on the Makhzen for anything that may be done by the Riffs to the Spaniards before Makhzen authority is fully established in these parts, when, should any excess be committed by either side against the other, the authority governing the offending party shall do justice, and the authority of the party offending cannot in any way take it upon itself to obtain justice nor send out a Government force on its behalf.

5. The Minister requests the entry of food and drink for the residents of Melilla be permitted free of export duty through the Moorish custom-house.

Reply.—The great harm this request entails on the Makhzen in that district and at the ports whence such dutiable goods are shipped in conformity with the Treaty of Equality is well known, and the Spanish Government will refrain from introducing this evil against the Makhzen, and be the first to accept this plea.

6. The Minister requests that two lighthouses be erected, one at Ras Uareg (Cabo Tres Forcas), and the other at the place known as Cabo Quilates, in the Riff.

Reply.—The Makhzen will undertake this task, from its wish to please the Spanish Government, on the following conditions: the Makhzen to build them and provide for their expenses, but only after tranquillity is restored in that part of the country and the Makhzen authority established there, and after Regulations governing these two lighthouses have been drawn up.

7. The Minister requests that the Makhzen shall acknowledge its liability for the expenditure which the Minister states was entailed on Spain by the people who entered the boundary of Melilla from Morocco.

Reply.—The Makhzen, to satisfy Spain, undertakes to make an arrangement for the payment of a sum on this account, as those who entered Melilla were not Makhzen troops but disobedient persons, and the Makhzen had given no instructions for any expenditure to be incurred on their behalf. A delay shall be allowed for the payment of whatever sum shall be agreed upon until the Makhzen obtains the large loan it contemplates. It was then agreed with the Minister that, upon his producing the details of his expenditure, such an arrangement shall be come to as circumstances may require.

8. The Minister suggested that it is in the Makhzen's interest to notify to the Spanish Governor of Melilla the names of the Governors it wishes to appoint over the boundary before the appointment is made, in order that the official so appointed may be free from all conditions likely to cause troubles; the same formality to be followed as regards the Governors appointed over the tribes adjoining the boundary.

Reply.—The Makhzen agree to this.

9. The Minister requests that, if the Makhzen intend to grant privileges to any person in connection with mines or any other interests in the neighbourhood of the Spanish posts, the preference shall be given to Spain.

Reply.—The matter of mines is one of those of international interest referred to in the Act of the Conference, and the granting of privileges in respect of them is not possible.

10. The Minister asks that when tranquillity is quite restored in the Riff the Makhzen will consent to the neutral ground between the two boundaries, comprising 500 metres, being used as a drill ground for the Melilla garrison and the Moorish troops.

Reply.—The present condition of the subjects of the Makhzen in that part is known, but when tranquillity is restored and His Majesty's forces have gone to the Houz (Southern Morocco), and sufficient forces have been sent to tranquillize that district (Melilla), it will instruct the officials it sends there to study the question of the state of the tribes neighbouring on this ground, and to discuss the matter with the Chiefs of those tribes, and, should they agree to this proposal, the Makhzen will not be averse to meeting the wishes of Spain in the matter.

11. The Minister asks as a favour that the Spanish troops may go out with their new artillery to the limits of the Riff country beyond the neutral ground, so as to have room for target practice, returning afterwards to their quarters, and this only if it is found necessary.

Reply.—(Similar to the reply to the preceding question.)

12. The Minister asks that, on the restoration of complete tranquillity in that district, the Makhzen will agree to the erection of stores for trading on the coast at Alhucunas Velez de la Gomera and Chafarinas, for which a guard of Makhzen soldiers and of their (Spanish Mahommedan) soldiers shall be established.

Reply.—When tranquillity is established in that district, and Makhzen authority is exercised there, they will then furnish soldiers as a guard, as formerly, through the Moorish officials there. As regards the stores for trade, the Makhzen will discuss with the Spanish Government and with the Chiefs of the tribes in that neighbourhood regarding the action that may be desirable in the interests of both Governments in this respect, when the Makhzen officials are established there.

13. The Minister requests that, when security and tranquillity is restored, the Makhzen will concede to them authority to introduce water into Melilla and Ceuta if water exists in the vicinity of those towns.

Reply.—When order is established in that district and Makhzen authority is restored there, the Makhzen will inquire into the sources of water which it will be possible to conduct into those two posts without obstruction. The matter will then be discussed between the two Governments in such a manner as not to occasion any injury to either.

14. The Minister asks that the Spaniard Secundo Bruno (?) be permitted to open a channel between the sea and the inland sea of Mar Chica.

Reply.—When Makhzen authority is re-established in that district they will send engineers and others to examine the place. The matter will also be discussed with the chief men of the tribes to whom the land belongs, and whatever agreement is unanimously arrived at will be the subject of an arrangement between the two Governments under special conditions.

15. The Minister asks for the extension of the boundaries of Ceuta on the Jibel Musa side, by which the present boundary at the foot of the mountain will be extended to its crest.

Reply.—Long since, when a certain Power asked for a part of this mountain, it was impossible for the Makhzen to accede to the request in view of the future interests of the Makhzen. It is therefore hoped that the Spanish Government will forgo the request.

16. The Minister asks that an arrangement be made for the delimitation of the boundary between the dominions of the Sultan and the Spanish post at Rio de Oro, in the Sahara of Sûs.

Reply.—When the Moorish tribes are tranquil and disorders at an end amongst

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them, the Makhzen and the Spanish Government will appoint a Commission to examine the district lying between the said Spanish post and the Shereefian dominions. It will then be seen what arrangement can be come to in this matter.

17. The Minister asks that the shipment of charcoal be permitted from Moorish ports.

Reply.—This request has been made by others, and it was not possible to agree to it, and a reply was given pointing out the harm and distress this would cause among the subjects of His Majesty. The Minister will therefore forgo this request.

18. The Minister asks that Dr. Garcia, a Spaniard, be appointed as doctor to accompany the army on expeditions, whose salary will be paid by his Government, the Makhzen merely to furnish him with a horse and its keep.

Reply.—There is already a doctor appointed to assist the troops, and the Makhzen has the intention to reduce the number of foreigners at Court. Nevertheless, when His Majesty is settled in the capital he will accept the employment of the said doctor in a suitable position, but his employment on expeditions is impossible.

19. The Minister states that, should His Majesty decide to employ one or two Spanish officers, they are prepared to provide them.

Reply.—The Makhzen has the intention to curtail expenses and reduce the number of foreigners employed at Court. It cannot, therefore, employ any one or increase the numbers of those already employed.

20. The Minister asks that the request put forward by the Spaniard Mesquita to construct ponds in certain waters on the Moorish coast for fishing be granted.

Reply.—It is well known that this is a matter which must be put up to adjudication whenever the Makhzen may decide upon it.

21. The Minister asks that consent be given to José Fouguirla to lay a horse or an electric tramway between the beach and the Marshan at Tangier.

Reply.—This is a public work mentioned in the Act of the Conference, for which tenders must be invited when it is decided upon.

22. The Minister asks that permission be granted to Emilio Rotondo, a Spanish subject, to instal a telephone system at Mazagan.

Reply.—The Makhzen is about to issue orders to the Commissioner Torres and to Sid Guebbas to discuss with the said Spaniard regarding the drawing up of the necessary conditions of the installation at Mazagan in the manner which will be beneficial to the Makhzen and be of no harm to the townspeople. The matter will then be conducted with him in accordance with what regulations may be so drawn up.

22. The Minister asks that the private claims of Spanish subjects and protégés mentioned in the Memorandum on that subject be settled.

Reply.—An agreement was come to that the Makhzen should appoint an official to attend to the gradual settlement of those claims according to justice, in conjunction with an official to be appointed by the Spanish Government at Tangier; the whole to be settled by the end of December next at the latest.

[13278] No. 9.

Sir G Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received April* 18.)

(No. 81.)

Tangier, April 11, 1908.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to state that Raisuli came to see me on the 6th instant. As reported in Mr. White's despatch No. 59 of the 7th ultimo, Cid Guebbas had expressed a wish that he should proceed to Rabat, as it was thought it might have a good effect on the tribes in favour of Abdul Aziz. Upon my asking Raisuli what were his intentions, he replied that he desired to do as he was told by His Majesty's Legation, but the prospect of a journey to Rabat did not appear to be attractive to him. He said that he had never been at sea, but even the passage of rivers produced a most unpleasant effect upon him. I suggested that he should see Cid Guebbas and Cid Torres, which he consented to do through my intermediary, but he did not wish to appear by daylight, as

he dreaded being mobbed and publicity in general. In answer to my inquiries, he declared that he had no longer any grievances against any of the Viziers, though some of the Moorish officials were doing much harm by inciting the tribes against him, and he proceeded to quote specific cases with which I need not trouble you.

I explained the situation to him, and advised him to use his influence to maintain the authority of the reigning Sultan, and to avoid anything which might give colour to the idea that he was giving support to the Pretenders to his throne. I reminded him that he had, on several occasions, expressed himself as much opposed to the police. I hoped that he was now convinced that they did not constitute a danger, but rather a safeguard, for the tranquillity of the country. He acquiesced, but maintained that it was a mistake to endeavour to establish them at all ports at once. They should have been started in one port and then the people would have seen that they were beneficial, and would have gradually got accustomed to the idea. Their opposition would have then vanished. As it was, he was not sanguine of the scheme passing off quietly. He had lately done much to try and persuade the people that the French meant them no harm, but the words were hardly out of his mouth before others came and asserted that they had travelled in Mahommedan countries and found that where the English influence existed their religion, susceptibilities, and property were respected, but that this was not the case where the French ruled. The tribes around were, he stated, by no means satisfied with the situation, and he himself had received letters from Mulai Hafid, El Merani and Kittani, urging him to persuade the tribes to join Mulai Hafid. The Moorish authorities were clumsy in their dealings with these tribes, and it was due to them that tranquillity was not yet restored among the people.

He appeared to be much hurt at my declining to receive a present of horses he had brought me, but I explained that it was impossible to depart from the invariable rule for Diplomats not to accept presents from people of the country to which they were accredited, and I suggested that if he wished to show his gratitude to His Majesty's Government, he might do so by instilling into his compatriots a love of order.

I do not presume on so short an acquaintance to have fathomed the real feelings of this cunning brigand, but the general impression left on my mind was that for the present at any rate he deemed it to his advantage to place himself unreservedly under the direction of the Legation in the same way as any other British-protected Moorish subject, and he evidently wished me to understand that he exercised considerable authority, though he admitted that there were many endeavouring to undermine that authority. He declared that he intended to exert his influence in support of the reigning Sultan, although he had thus far striven solely to maintain order. For he recognized the impossibility of limiting disorders, should they once commence, to the mountain district, as they would at once spread to the neighbourhood of the northern ports. He had consequently refrained from declaring for either party, and had merely endeavoured, with some measure of success, to induce the tribes to remain impartial.

Raisuli saw Cid Guebbas on the 7th, and returned here the next day to say that he had been asked to see Guebbas and other officials again. He seemed to me even less disposed than on his first visit to make the journey to Rabat, though he was full of protestations of loyalty to Abdul Aziz. He finally pointed out that three courses were open to him:—

1. To go to Rabat immediately and confer with the Sultan and the Viziers. This would open the door to endless intrigues among the tribes in this district during his absence.
2. To remain here for a time and prepare the tribes for his eventual journey to Rabat.
3. To return to Tazeroot and live quietly there, and continue to use his influence, as he has latterly been doing, to keep the tribes quiet. I explained carefully to Raisuli that I did not desire to advise him to go to Rabat if he thought it injudicious in the interests of the Sultan, or disadvantageous for his own position, but as the Viziers had suggested his going, I wished him to understand that I had no objection.

I am inclined to think, from my conversation with Raisuli, that his ambition is not yet fully gratified, and that he is aiming eventually at again filling some important position, probably as Governor of the hill tribes in this neighbourhood. After their previous experience of him the Powers would hardly receive such an appointment with satisfaction, and for the present I think it would be better that Raisuli's action should

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be limited to exercising his influence quietly in favour of the Sultan among those tribes where he still has some authority.

Eventually Raisuli left Tangier yesterday for his mountain home, having decided, in any case for the present, not to proceed to Rabat.

Cid Guebbas told me to-day that he was of opinion that it was wiser on the whole that Raisuli should remain in this district for the present. He said that he had given him to understand that he should not look forward to being appointed a Governor, but said he might be able to point out suitable men for such offices. If Raisuli asked directly for an appointment as Governor he proposed to tell him that as a British protégé he could not hold a Government post.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

[13279] No. 10.

Sir G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received April 18.)

(No. 82.)
Sir, *Tangier, April 12, 1908.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a summary of events based on news received during the past week.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

Inclosure in No. 10.

Summary of Events for the week ending April 11, 1908.

IT appears that the Arabs are again assembling in large numbers in the Showia district, with what object it is not yet certain, though it is evident that some important move is contemplated. Bands of countrymen from the south are also reported to be on their way to join Mulai Hafid, who has received further accessions of strength by the arrival of a mehalla from Sus and another from Kaïd Anflus. Mr. Madden states that there is little doubt communications of some sort have been passing between the French and the Pretender.

An armed post of considerable strength is to be established at Emdakra pending the submission of that tribe.

The impression continues to prevail that Mulai Hafid does not intend to fight. He is reported to be keeping the large gathering of Arabs who have assembled under his standard to the vicinity of the Um-er-Rebia River. The Provinces of Shtooka and Shiedma and the Azemour district are still disturbed.

Mr. Neroutsos reports from Rabat that the mehalla of El Bagdadi is under orders to march. It is only 3,000 strong, and it is feared at Rabat that the expedition has but small chance of success, as the tribes are so inflamed against the Sultan on account of the assistance afforded to him by the French.

Recent fighting in the Showia district seems at last to have made some impression on the interior tribes, for even at Mequinez the people have now learnt that large numbers of their compatriots have been killed. Hitherto news from the coast has always been perverted before travelling far inland, the defeat of the tribes being always magnified into a glorious victory and massacre of the Christian enemy.

(Initialled) F. R.

[13280] No. 11.

Sir G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received April 18.)

(No. 83.)
Sir, *Tangier, April 12, 1908.*

I HAD some conversation with M. Regnault to-day about the general condition of affairs here. He returned yesterday from the Casa Blanca district, where he has been with General Lyautey. On the whole he declares himself satisfied with the progress of pacification, but he says it is extremely unfortunate that the men-of-war which should be detailed for the capture of smuggling vessels are too much occupied with postal and

other work of that nature. He trusts that it may be possible within a few days to occupy the port of Saffi with Azizian troops, which will go far to stop the introduction of arms and ammunition for Mulai Hafid and the rebellious tribes.

M. Regnault thinks that the authority of Mulai Hafid is decidedly on the wane in the Casa Blanca district, at Rabat, and at Fez, but of his authority in the south he knows but little. He thinks that in Fez Abdul Aziz may be again declared very shortly, and the much deferred departure of the army from Rabat for Fez would, he felt certain, take place within the next few days. Whether these soldiers eventually would prove loyal or traitors was an important feature of the situation, but of this M. Regnault could give no forecast.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

[13281] No. 12.

Sir G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received April 18.)

(No. 84.)
Sir, *Tangier, April 12, 1908.*

WITH reference to Mr. White's despatches Nos. 44 and 52, Confidential, of the 21st and 29th February, I have the honour to report that Sid Mohammed Guebbas, the Assistant Commissioner for Foreign Affairs, has informed me that it has been agreed in writing between him and the Spanish Minister that a Representative of the Moorish Government shall remain at Melilla, and that all the troops there shall be conveyed by Spanish Government vessel to Rabat only. They are not to be disembarked anywhere else under any pretext. Their animals, arms, and other impedimenta are to follow at the convenience of the Spanish Government, and landed wherever the Moorish Government may wish.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

[14583] No. 13.

Consul Madden to Sir G. Lowther.—(Communicated by Sir G. Lowther, April 20.)

Dear Sir Gerard, *Casa Blanca, April 18, 1908.*

AN idea has got about that the International Commission here will have instructions to disallow country debts, which, if true, seems a very unfair thing. I believe it is said that the Alexandria Commission did not allow them, but the case and circumstances are completely unlike.

These country debts are direct losses to our merchants; many of the debtors are dead and gone or killed in battle, and fighting still continues. If, therefore, the Commission cuts off these debts with a stroke of the pen it will really be a most serious matter, and I am therefore venturing to mention it to your Excellency before it is too late and the instruction of the Commissioners is finally determined, hoping in the interests of British subjects that you will kindly lend any support you can towards the passing of country debts.

Believe me, &c.
(Signed) A. M. MADDEN.

[13606] No. 14.

Sir G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received April 21.)

(No. 85.)
Sir, *Tangier, April 13, 1908.*

I REGRET to be compelled to return to the matter of the contract for the construction of the drainage works here, which formed the subject of my despatches Nos. 117, 187, and 196, of the 23rd April, the 14th June, and the 21st June of last year.

Captain Rooke, after a careful study of the matter, drew up a Report, with the conclusion that the work should not cost more than 10,600*l.*, and a note was addressed

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to the Makhzen by the then President of the Sanitary Council authorizing the Makhzen to come to an arrangement with the German firm interested for the carrying out of the work exactly under the conditions and according to the plan of Captain Rooke's scheme, which arrangement was to be submitted to the Sanitary Council. No reply has been received to this note, and the question has consequently remained till now *in statu quo*.

I yesterday received the visit of Dr. Rosen, who argued at length to the effect that it was impossible to carry out Captain Rooke's scheme at the price named, and urged that a new scheme put forward by the German firm should be authorized. For this he gave the following reasons: That Captain Rooke was wanting in local experience to appreciate the difficulties connected with building such works, caused by storms, currents, &c., and this experience the German Company had acquired, to their loss, in building the port works upon which they had been engaged for the past two years.

That Captain Rooke's plan did not provide for reclaming any land, the sale of which would serve as a guarantee for a loan for the capital required for carrying out the works, and would also provide further accommodation for the custom-house.

The plan now proposed by the German engineers would cover a superficies of 21,000 metres of reclaimed land, of which 6,000 metres would be required for the road, 5,000 metres would be given up to the custom-house, and 10,000 metres would be available for sale or lease. The cost of the scheme is estimated at 23,850*l*.

I pointed out to Dr. Rosen that Captain Rooke had very carefully gone into the matter, and I personally believed his figures to be sound. That officer had not been invited to make the most advantageous plans, but the most economical, nor had he, of course, taken into account the question of the provision of funds for the payment of the works. The new scheme had no doubt many advantages, especially as it would probably cost nothing to the Makhzen, as they would benefit by the reclaimed land, but it would constitute a departure from the principle of adjudication laid down by the Act of Algeciras. The Sanitary Council had thought fit to set aside that principle where a small sum (10,600*l*.) was concerned, but now it would be a question of 23,850*l*., and I, for my part, could not agree to this change of attitude without instructions from my Government.

Dr. Rosen is extremely anxious to get the matter arranged promptly—partly (as I understand from another source) because it seems that this unsavoury question is to be included in the White Book on Morocco in course of preparation, and the German Government is desirous of being able to state that it has been arranged, and partly because the present port works are nearing completion, and the staff of the German Company would have to be withdrawn if there is no other work available.

Dr. Rosen has also seen the French Minister on the subject, and the latter told me that he personally, being anxious to see this vexed question closed, would have no objection to the Rooke scheme being enlarged to the extent of the newly-proposed German scheme, but that he would consult his Government telegraphically on the matter.

Dr. Rosen asked me to do the same, but I demurred, as the matter required more explanation than could be properly included in a telegram; but I said I would ask you whether you would send me a telegraphic reply. The question will, of course, have to be submitted again to the Sanitary Council; but if the French and we agree to the principle of adjudication being exceptionally departed from in this case, the other Delegates are not very likely to raise any objection.

Should Dr. Rosen's proposal be acceded to, I think it would be very advisable to obtain from the German Government a definite statement that by this work they did not lay claim to all future works in connection with the port, as this was the claim at one time set up by them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. LOWTHER.

[13607] No. 15.

Sir G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received April* 21.)

(No. 86.)

Tangier, April 14, 1908.

Sir,

I UNDERSTAND that it is expected that the International Commission to examine the claims arising out of the events of Casa Blanca of August last will meet there on the 31st May.

The inclosed is the draft of the Decree, which it is expected will be promulgated shortly.

My German, Spanish, Italian, and Portuguese colleagues inform me that they have no knowledge of their respective Representatives to sit on the Commission having been selected. The French Delegate was selected some time since.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

Inclosure in No. 15.

Draft of Shereefian Decree.

ARTICLE 1. Il est institué une Commission Internationale exclusivement compétente à l'effet de recevoir et d'examiner les réclamations des sujets indigènes et des étrangers à raison des dommages causés à la propriété mobilière ou immobilière par les actes insurrectionnels qui ont été commis à Casa Blanca depuis le 30 Juillet, 1907, et par l'action répressive qui a suivi.

Art. 2. Cette Commission se réunira le 31 Mai à Casa Blanca. Elle sera composée comme suit:—

Trois membres désignés par le Gouvernement Chérifien, qui nommera parmi eux le Président.

Un membre désigné par chacun des Gouvernements d'Allemagne, d'Espagne, de France, de Grande-Bretagne, d'Italie, de Portugal.

Le cas échéant, tout autre pays pourra désigner un Agent de sa Légation, qui participera à l'examen et au règlement des réclamations de ses nationaux.

Art. 3. La Commission aura tous pouvoirs pour procéder à l'instruction des demandes qui lui seront présentées. Elle statuera souverainement sur chacune d'elles soit en la rejetant, soit en y faisant droit par la fixation d'une indemnité. Toutefois ne donneront droit à une indemnité que les dommages directs.

Elle prendra toute décision à la majorité absolue des voix, et le Président, en cas de partage, aura voix prépondérante.

Elle sera valablement constituée même en l'absence d'un ou de plusieurs Délégués. Mais si une demande était appelée en l'absence du Délégué de la nation à laquelle appartiendrait le réclamant, le Délégué serait averti, sans que son absence pût retarder de plus d'une semaine l'examen de l'affaire.

Art. 4. La Commission pourra désigner un ou plusieurs Vice-Présidents ainsi qu'un ou plusieurs Secrétaires, dont l'un au moins sera indigène, et s'adjoindre dans ses travaux, à titre consultatif, les interprètes, experts, et généralement toutes les personnes dont le concours lui paraîtra utile.

Les crédits nécessaires lui seront ouverts à la Banque d'État, sur sa demande, par le Gouvernement Marocain.

Art. 5. Il sera ultérieurement pourvu à la fixation de l'époque et aux voies et moyens de paiement des indemnités accordées par la Commission.

[13070] No. 16.

Foreign Office to Mr. W. H. Thorne.

Sir,

Foreign Office, April 23, 1908.

I AM directed by Secretary Sir E. Grey to inform you that His Majesty's Government have decided to be officially represented on the International Commission which is to sit in Morocco to examine the claims brought against the Moorish Government on account of losses suffered by persons other than Moorish subjects owing to the disturbances which took place at Casa Blanca during the summer of 1907.

The fee for the British Representative has been fixed at 50 guineas a-week, with a minimum of 300 guineas, to cover all expenses except those of locomotion, and I am directed by Sir E. Grey to inquire whether you will accept the appointment of British Commissioner on those terms.

His Majesty's Minister at Tangier has reported that it is impossible to secure the services of a clerk locally to assist the British Commissioner. I am to inquire

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accordingly whether, in the event of your accepting the appointment, you could suggest any suitable person for this position. I am to add that it is proposed to remunerate the clerk at the rate of 5*l.* a-week salary, together with a first class passage to and from Morocco; he would in addition receive an allowance of 1*l.* a-day for subsistence while on shore.

I am, &c.
(Signed) F. A. CAMPBELL.

[14036] No. 17.

Note communicated by M. Geoffray, April 24, 1908.

LE Gouvernement Français a désigné pour le représenter à la Commission Internationale des Indemnités de Casa Blanca M. Herbaux, Conseiller à la Cour de Cassation, et il proposera comme Secrétaire Français M. Marchand, Vice-Consul à Larache.

Il compte demander qu'en raison du rôle joué par la France dans les événements de Casa Blanca la vice-présidence de la Commission soit attribuée à M. Herbaux.

Ambassade de France à Londres,
le 23 Avril, 1908.

[14085] No. 18.

Sir G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received April 25.)

(No. 87.) *Tangier, April 15, 1908.*

Sir,

NEWS has reached here from Saffi, which port, as you are aware, is still in the hands of Mulai Hafid, that he is about to send fresh Missions to the principal European Courts. The names of the persons composing the intended Mission to London are Abdelkader Ducally, El Berdai, and Hadj Thami-el-Claoui.

It is said that Mulai Hafid will endeavour to convey to foreign Governments an assurance that he is prepared to accept the Act of Algeciras in full; that he will pay a war indemnity to the French; that he will take over all the liabilities of the Makhzen; but that he will require an assurance that the French will not interfere with him in settling his dispute with his brother.

More will, no doubt, be heard of this matter, and it will be of interest to discover whether Mulai Hafid has received encouragement from any quarter which has led him to believe that a second Mission would be more likely to meet with success than the last.

I will not fail to report further as soon as I hear that these Missions have actually left.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

[14216] No. 19.

Mr. W. Thorne to Foreign Office.—(Received April 25.)

3, Paper Buildings, Temple, April 24, 1908.

Sir,

I BEG to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of yesterday's date.

I willingly and gratefully accept the offer there made to me, in the name of the Secretary of State, to act as British Representative on the Casa Blanca Claims Commission for the fee and on the terms mentioned in that letter.

With regard to the question of a clerk, on which you are good enough to consult me, I would venture to recommend my brother, Mr. George Houghton Thorne, formerly in the Middlesex Regiment and afterwards in the Army Service Corps, whose present address is 30, Clanricarde Gardens, W.

I am, &c.
(Signed) W. H. H. THORNE.

[14390] No. 20.

Sir G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received April 27.)

(No. 90.) *Tangier, April 21, 1908.*

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 87 of the 15th instant, I have the honour to inclose a translation of a letter addressed to me by Mulai Hafid, which reached me by the ordinary post, and which announces his intention of sending a fresh mission to London with the hope of bringing about an improvement in the relations between his Government and the French Government. A similar letter has been sent to all the other foreign Representatives here.

The Envoys have chartered a British steamer, "Penshurst," to convey them direct from Saffi to Gibraltar, as it is necessary that they should avoid touching at any port in the hands of Sultan Abdul Aziz, and the vessel is to-day lying off Rabat.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

Inclosure in No. 20.

Letter addressed by Mulai Hafid to Sir G. Lowther.

(Translation.)

IN the name of God the Merciful, the Compassionate—and there is no power nor strength save in God the High, the Mighty.

To the intelligent, respected, experienced Envoy of the exalted English Government at Tangier, after many inquiries as to your health. We trust you may always continue well and in safety. We are writing to you to impress upon you our Shereefian intentions towards maintaining friendship between our Maghrebine Islamic nation and all the other respected Powers, and our benevolent intentions are still firmly fixed on that object, and we have sent on behalf of our Majesty, exalted in God, Envoys to your respected Government in the brilliant capital of its Chief (may God cause his life to be prolonged) to discuss with him the matter of Morocco with the hope of bringing about an improvement in the actual relations existing between our Government (the happy) and the French Government. We inform you of this in order that you may have knowledge thereof, and we trust you will hasten to notify the Chief of your honoured Government of this in order that he may have knowledge of their coming to him.

God keep you in safety.

(Seal of Abd el Hafid ben Hassan.)

Written on the 27th Safar, 1324 (*March* 30, 1908).

[13606] No. 21.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir G. Lowther.

(No. 12.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, April 27, 1908.*

DRAINAGE works.

French Government have been requested to give us their assistance in opposing proposal of Germany reported in your despatch No. 85 of the 13th April.

[13606] No. 22.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir F. Bertie.

No. 179.) *Foreign Office, April 28, 1908.*

Sir,

YOUR Excellency will be aware from the Confidential Print, forwarded in the course of last year to His Majesty's Embassy at Paris, that some twelve months ago considerable friction arose between the foreign Representatives at Tangier, owing to the attempt of the German Minister to secure for German firms a contract for the

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construction of certain drainage works at Tangier, without submitting it to adjudication in accordance with the terms of the Algeciras Act; and that eventually a compromise was effected, according to which an engineer officer from Gibraltar was to be invited to draw up a scheme for certain small but urgent works, the construction of which was to be intrusted to the German firm of Renchausen, while a larger and more comprehensive scheme was to be submitted to adjudication under the provisions of the Algeciras Act.

Captain Rooke, the engineer selected by the Governor of Gibraltar, submitted a scheme for works to cost under 10,000*l.*, and the Tangier Sanitary Council authorized the Moorish Government to come to an arrangement with Messrs. Renchausen for their execution. No reply was, however, received from the Moorish Government to the note addressed to them on the subject, and matters remained *in statu quo* until a fresh development took place which forms the subject of the despatch from Sir G. Lowther, of which I transmit a copy to your Excellency herewith.*

This development consists of an attempt on the part of Dr. Rosen to secure for the firm of Renchausen, without having recourse to adjudication, not only the contract for the work advised by Captain Rooke, but also for further works, the total cost being estimated at no less than 23,850*l.*, or nearly two and a-half times as much. The acceptance of this proposal would entail the abandonment of the compromise arranged by the Sanitary Council, and the substitution, merely for the convenience and profit of a German firm of a different arrangement involving a formal setting aside of the adjudication provisions of the Algeciras Act. The reasons advanced by Dr. Rosen do not appear to me to warrant in any way so extreme a course, and to set aside the Act in this question is to incur a serious risk of allowing the adjudication clauses to become a dead letter.

In such an event British firms might be altogether excluded from contracts in Morocco. This is a danger of a kind which the adjudication clauses of the Algeciras Act were specially designed to prevent, and it is hardly to be expected that His Majesty's Government should consent, in these circumstances, to give up a principle so essential to the interest of British trade in Morocco.

I request that your Excellency will approach the French Government and inform them that His Majesty's Government are, for the reasons given above, opposed to the German proposal.

(Confidential.)

It is alleged that M. Regnault is not altogether unfavourable to the German proposal, and Sir G. Lowther hints privately that the question of the drainage works may be part of a deal between French and German firms, of which the final result will be the exclusion of British firms from contracts in Morocco. In view of the fact that the Germans had already been negotiating before the Algeciras Act for some work of this kind at Tangier, and in order to avoid making difficulties for France with Germany' His Majesty's Government were willing originally to make some concession on this point, but they could not extend this concession in such a way as to promote the ulterior consequences which Sir G. Lowther apprehends.

I am, &c.
(Signed) E. GREY.

[14036] No. 23.

Sir Edward Grey to M. Cambon.

Foreign Office, April 29, 1908.

Your Excellency,

WITH reference to the Memorandum which M. Geoffray was good enough to communicate on the 23rd instant, I have the honour to state that Mr. William H. H. Thorne, Barrister-at-Law, of the Inner Temple and the South Eastern Circuit, has been appointed British Commissioner on the Casa Blanca Claims Commission.

I have the honour to add that Mr. Thorne will be instructed to support the candidature of M. Herbaux for the Vice-Presidency of the Commission.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. GREY.

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* No. 14.

[14583] No. 24.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir G. Lowther.

(No. 68.)

Foreign Office, April 30, 1908.

Sir,

WITH reference to your letter to Mr. Langley of the 20th instant inclosing a copy of a letter from His Majesty's Consul at Casa Blanca respecting the rumoured intention of the International Claims Commission to disallow "country debts," it is rather difficult to form an opinion without having further details of these particular claims.

The ultimate decision must of course rest with the Commission, but I propose, subject to any observations which you may desire to offer on this point, to instruct the British Representative to support claims for losses in the immediate neighbourhood of Casa Blanca which were the obvious result of the bombardment or of the looting in the town.

I am, &c.
(Signed) E. GREY.

[14963] No. 25.

Sir G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received May* 2.)

(No. 93.)

Tangier, April 25, 1908.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 90 of the 21st instant, I have the honour to report further with regard to the Diplomatic Mission dispatched by Mulai Hafid to Europe.

I am informed that the Mission, which consists of about eight members, will separate on arrival in Europe, certain of the Delegates proceeding to Paris and Madrid and others to London and Berlin. The former delegation will be accompanied by M. Jourdan, a Frenchman who is connected with the Algiers and Morocco Company, a British Company trading here. He appears to be the prime mover in the dispatch of the Mission. He describes himself in communications with the British Vice-Consul at Saffi as being "chargé de la direction de la Mission," and is stated by Mr. Hunot to have represented to Mulai Hafid that he could count on a strong political party in France opposed to the present policy of the Government, and he hopes to convince the latter that Mulai Hafid is able and willing to restore order in Morocco; that the recent anti-French outrages and the disturbances in the Shawia have been the result of the present Sultan's weakness; and that, as the whole country has deserted him and chosen Mulai Hafid, it is right that he should receive the recognition of Europe. The chief Delegate proceeding to London is stated to be one Haj Mohammed-el-Burdai, a British Mokhalat of a Manchester firm.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

[15117] No. 26.

Sir G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received May* 2.)

(No. 19.)
(Telegraphic.)

Tangier, May 2, 1908.

YOUR telegram No. 12 of 27th ultimo.

I have reason to believe that French Government are endeavouring to come to an arrangement with German Government over the drainage works here, on the basis of reduction of proposed German harbour works at Laraiche.

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[15139] No. 27.

Sir F. Lascelles to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received May 4.*)

(No. 198.)

Berlin, April 30, 1908.

Sir,

THE "Kreuz-Zeitung" of last night quotes a short article from the "Deutsche Volkswirtschaftliche Korrespondenz" on the subject of German trade in Morocco, of which the following is a *précis* :—

German trade in Morocco has made great progress in the last few years, and in 1907 Germany was one of the chief markets for Moroccan products. The import to Germany from Morocco of barley was 212,500*l.*, of raw sheep's wool 100,000*l.*, sheeps' and goats' skins almost the same, almonds 75,000*l.* In January and February 1908, 77,106 doppel-zentner (100 kilog.) of barley and 1,931 doppel-zentner of almonds were imported into Germany from Morocco; but less wool and sheeps' skins seems to have been imported than last year. There is a still greater falling off in the export of German manufactures to Morocco, which is undoubtedly due to French action in that country. Judging by the complaints that are raised it would seem as if the French were purposely hindering all non-French trade at Casa Blanca, &c. An association has already been formed in England to protect English commercial interests in Morocco which are so seriously endangered by French policy. German complaints of French injustice have also been frequent, and the English example is being followed. There was a public general meeting in Berlin the other day of German merchants interested in Morocco to discuss the necessity of energetic measures to protect German interests in Morocco against France, with special reference to the statements in the Reichstag of the Imperial Chancellor and the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs. "Let us hope that the efforts of the meeting will meet with success, and especially that they may obtain the support of our Government."

I have, &c.

(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

[15385] No. 28.

Sir F. Bertie to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received May 5.*)

(No. 178.)

Paris, May 4, 1908.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you herewith copy of a note which I have addressed to the Minister for Foreign Affairs in the sense of your despatch No. 179 of the 28th ultimo instructing me to bring to the notice of the French Government the views of his Majesty's Government respecting the attitude of the German Representative with regard to the construction of public works at Tangier.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FRANCIS BERTIE.

Inclosure in No. 28.

Sir F. Bertie to M. Pichon.

Paris, May 2, 1908.

M. le Ministre,

YOUR Excellency is aware that about a year ago considerable friction arose between the foreign Representatives at Tangier owing to the attempts of the German Minister to secure for German firms a contract for the construction of certain drainage works at Tangier without submitting it to adjudication in accordance with the terms of the Algeciras Act, and that eventually a compromise was effected according to which an engineer officer from Gibraltar was to be invited to draw up a scheme for certain small but urgent works, the construction of which was to be entrusted to the German firm of Renchausen, while a larger and more comprehensive scheme was to be submitted to adjudication under the provisions of the Algeciras Act. Captain Rooke, the engineer selected by the Governor of Gibraltar, submitted a scheme for works to cost under 10,000*l.*, and the Tangier Sanitary Council authorized the Moorish Government to come to an arrangement with Messrs. Renchausen for their execution.

No reply was, however, received from the Moorish Government to the note addressed to them on the subject, and matters remained *in statu quo* until a fresh development took place, which His Majesty's Minister at Tangier has recently reported to His Majesty's Government. This development consists of an attempt on the part of Dr. Rosen to secure for the firm of Renchausen, without having recourse to adjudication, not only the contract for the work advised by Captain Rooke, but also for further works, the total cost being estimated at no less than 23,850*l.*, or nearly two and a-half times as much. The acceptance of this proposal would entail the abandonment of the compromise arranged by the Sanitary Council and the substitution, merely for the convenience and profit of a German firm, of a different arrangement involving a formal setting aside of the adjudication provisions of the Algeciras Act. The reasons advanced by Dr. Rosen do not appear to warrant in any way so extreme a course, and to set aside the Act in this question is, in the opinion of His Majesty's Government, to incur a serious risk of allowing the adjudication clauses to become a dead letter. In such an event British firms might be altogether excluded from contracts in Morocco. This is a danger of a kind which the adjudication clauses of the Algeciras Act were specially designed to prevent, and it is hardly to be expected that His Majesty's Government should consent, in these circumstances, to give up a principle so essential to the interest of British trade in Morocco.

I am therefore instructed by His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to inform your Excellency that, for the reasons given above, His Majesty's Government are opposed to the German proposal.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FRANCIS BERTIE.

[15606] No. 29.

Sir F. Lascelles to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received May 6.*)

(No. 14.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Berlin, May 6, 1908.*

VISIT of Mulai Hafid's emissaries.

It is expected that the emissaries will arrive in Berlin within a few days. The French Ambassador proposes, in case they should call upon him, to decline to give them a reception; he has prevailed on the Imperial Government not to receive them officially, but they will be allowed to see the Secretary of the German Legation at Tangier, who is at present on leave in Berlin. On M. Cambon inquiring of me what I intended to do, supposing the emissaries should call upon me, as he anticipated they would on all the Ambassadors, I replied that I presumed that their visit might be regarded as a private one, and that they should therefore not be given any official reception; but I would ask for your instructions in the matter.

[14390] No. 30.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir F. Bertie.

(No. 194.)

Foreign Office, May 6, 1908.

Sir,

I TRANSMIT to your Excellency herewith a copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Minister at Tangier,* inclosing a translation of a letter addressed to him and to the other foreign Representatives at that place by Mulai Hafid, respecting the Missions which the Pretender is sending to European capitals. A further despatch since received from Sir G. Lowther on the same subject is also annexed.†

The French Representative at Tangier has no doubt communicated this letter to the French Government, and I request that you will ascertain what action the latter propose to take. If, as I assume, Mulai Hafid's envoys will not be officially received at Paris, His Majesty's Government will in this respect conform to the attitude of the French Government.

I am, &c.

(Signed) E. GREY.

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* No. 20. † No. 25.

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[15738] No. 31.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir F. Bertie.

(No. 197.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, May 6, 1908.*

M. CAMBON spoke to me to-day on the subject of the Tangier drain contract.

He said that it was now found the work could not be executed for 10,000*l.*, and the Germans had proposed that work should be undertaken to cost 20,000*l.*, and they would give French firms participation.

M. Pichon thought that as this question had been a great subject of division it would be very desirable to get it settled.

I told him we had agreed to a work of 10,000*l.* being undertaken in this way, but under the Algeciras Act such work ought, strictly speaking, to be adjudicated by open tender. We had not demurred to an exception of 10,000*l.*, but 20,000*l.* was a larger exception.

We knew that the French Government were very anxious to get rid of the difficulty in this particular case, and we did not wish to put obstacles in the way. But it would have to be clearly understood that this case was not to be a precedent, and that, if agreed to, it was only because the Germans had been in negotiation for something of the kind before the Algeciras Act. Future works of this kind would have to be dealt with in accordance with that Act.

M. Cambon said he would report what I had said to M. Pichon.

I am, &c.
(Signed) E. GREY.

[15117] No. 32.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir F. Bertie.

(No. 198.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, May 6, 1908.*

I HAVE already, in my despatch No. 189 of the 2nd instant, forwarded to your Excellency a copy of a telegram (No. 19) from His Majesty's Minister at Tangier on the subject of the drainage works at Tangier, and I have since then had a conversation on this same question with the French Ambassador to this Court, as recorded in my despatch No. 197 of the 6th instant.

From Sir G. Lowther's telegram above referred to it would seem that, contrary to the express provisions of the Algeciras Act, British competitors are likely to be excluded from large harbour works in Morocco owing to arrangements come to direct between the French and German Governments.

Though I am reluctant to believe that such can be the intention of the French Government, I should be glad if your Excellency would ascertain from the Minister for Foreign Affairs what are the facts as regards the harbour works at Laraiche, informing his Excellency at the same time of the anxiety felt by His Majesty's Government in regard to the question of future works there and at other Moorish ports.

I am, &c.
(Signed) E. GREY.

[15740] No. 33.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir F. Bertie.

(No. 199.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, May 6, 1908.*

M. CAMBON informed me to-day that the Envoys of Mulai Hafid would not be received at Paris.

Herr von Schön had said that the question of what should be done with them at Berlin had not been decided, but seemed to think that if any notice was taken of them it would be unofficial.

I told M. Cambon that they would not be received here.

I am, &c.
(Signed) E. GREY.

[15611] No. 34.

Sir F. Lascelles to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received May 7.)

(No. 206.)
Sir, *Berlin, May 5, 1908.*

THE "Kölnische Zeitung," in its issue of the 3rd instant, publishes a telegram from a Berlin correspondent on the subject of Mulai Hafid's dispatch of envoys to Berlin, which has been widely quoted in the rest of the German press as being officially inspired.

The correspondent notes that the report that Mulai Hafid's envoys would have some sort of official reception in Berlin has put the "Temps" into a quite unnecessary state of excitement. No definite information, he continues, is at present available in Berlin with regard to the matter, but he maintains that there would be nothing very remarkable or suspicious in the reception of envoys of Mulai Hafid in Berlin at their own request, by some official person deputed to learn from them the object of their journey. It would, on the other hand, be inappropriate to receive these envoys as the official representatives of a foreign Sovereign, for by so doing the German Government might at any rate be accused of mixing themselves up in the internal affairs of Morocco. It will also be desirable to inform the French Government officially of any intercourse which may take place between Mulai Hafid's envoys and the German officials, in order to convince them that Germany has no secret negotiations on foot with Mulai Hafid. The French press have so much the less cause to raise an outcry and endeavour to make capital against Germany out of the question inasmuch as it is not without precedent. As is well known, the German Government have already once before given Mulai Hafid their answer to his complaints, and at the same time officially informed the French Government both of those complaints and of their reply. It is therefore difficult to understand how the "Temps" can say, "a reception of Mulai Hafid's envoys in Berlin would constitute an unfriendly act towards France." The "Temps" ought rather to quietly develop a little more confidence in the loyalty of Germany's attitude to France.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

[15606] No. 35.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir F. Lascelles.

(No. 32.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, May 7, 1908.*

VISIT of emissaries from Mulai Hafid to Berlin. Your telegram No. 14 of the 6th instant.

You should decline to receive the emissaries if they call upon you.

[14216] No. 36.

Sir Edward Grey to Mr. W. H. Thorne.

Sir, *Foreign Office, May 7, 1908.*

WITH reference to your letter of the 24th ultimo, I hereby appoint you British Commissioner on the International Casa Blanca Claims Commission. Your remuneration will be regulated by the terms stated in the letter from the Foreign Office of the 23rd ultimo, viz., a fee of 52*l.* 10*s.* a-week, commencing on the day you leave England, with a minimum of 315*l.*, to cover all expenses except those of locomotion.

I inclose herewith a copy of an identic Memorandum, communicated by the French and Spanish Ambassadors in October last, defining the purposes and scope of the Commission, which is intended to follow the lines of the Alexandria Claims Commission of 1883. The principal object is, as you are aware, to ascertain the exact extent of the losses incurred by the subjects or citizens of foreign countries owing to the bombardment and subsequent looting of Casa Blanca in July–August 1907, and to fix the amount of compensation which will be claimed from the Moorish Government. It will be one of your duties to sift and examine carefully the various British claims

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which may be presented, and when you have satisfied yourself of their justice to endeavour to secure their acceptance by the Commission.

In the event of unexpected difficulties or doubtful points arising which you may be unable to resolve, you should refer to the Foreign Office, by telegraph if necessary, for instructions; and you should not fail to keep His Majesty's Government informed of the progress of the work of the Commission, your despatches being sent under flying seal through His Majesty's Legation at Tangier.

The President of the Commission will be the Shereef Moulai Lamin, the Representative of the Makhzen at Casa Blanca at the time when the disturbances took place. The French Government desire that M. Herbaux, their Representative on the Commission, should be appointed Vice-President, and I request that you will support his candidature.

His Majesty's Consul at Casa Blanca, in a despatch of which I inclose a copy, has raised the question whether "country claims" are to be included among those presented to the Commission. It will be for that body to come to an ultimate decision on the point, but as at present advised I see no equitable reason for the exclusion of claims for losses in the immediate neighbourhood of Casa Blanca which were the obvious result of the bombardment and looting.

I inclose a draft of the Shereefian Decree relative to the Commission, which, it is expected, will shortly be promulgated. It is expected that the Commission may be required to meet at Casa Blanca on the 31st instant, and I will not fail to inform you as soon as I learn that the date has been definitely fixed.

I am, &c.
(Signed) E. GREY.

[15793] No. 37.

War Office to Foreign Office.—(Received May 8.)

THE Director of Military Operations presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and begs to forward for his information and retention a copy of some notes on the Maghzen army in Morocco which have recently been compiled, and a copy of a Memorandum on the international police force now in course of being organized in the Moroccan ports.

War Office, May 7, 1908.

Inclosure 1 in No. 37.

Notes by Count Gleichen on the Maghzen Army in Morocco.

[Compiled, 16th to 20th April, 1908, mainly from information obtained from Commandant Fournié (Chief Instructor at Tangier).]

Organization and Numbers.

THE Maghzen army numbers about 25,000 men, of whom at present some 10,000 are serving on the side of Mulai Hafid, who has proclaimed himself Sultan in the place of Abdul Aziz, the legitimate Ruler of Morocco.

It comprises infantry, cavalry, and artillery, and is organized in tabors of 5 miyas each. A tabor consists of about 500 men.

The number of tabors is a varying quantity; there have been at times as many as seventy-two.

The Sultan's Bokhari Guard, as such, no longer exists, but the bodyguard and the Palace guards are mostly composed of Bokharis.

The present distribution of that portion of the Maghzen army which is at the disposal of Sultan Abdul Aziz is approximately as follows:—

At Tangier, 6 tabors	3,000
At Rabat, a mehalla* of 5,000 and a bodyguard of about 1,000 for Abdul Aziz	6,000
At Mazagan	1,500
At Mogador	2,000
The remnants of the force of about 2,500, sent under Kaïd Jilali to fight against the Roghi, which arrived from Mar Chica at Tangier on April 17, 1908, and are being sent to Rabat	800
Detachments at various places	1,700
Total	15,000

* The mehalla is said to have left for Fez, April 28, 1908.

Supply of Men.

The Maghzen army is recruited from the Bled-el-Maghzen tribes (*i.e.*, those living in country under control of the Sultan), which are each bound to furnish so many tabors. When a man deserts a substitute for him has to be found. There is also a certain amount of voluntary enlistment.

The lawless mountain tribes of the Bled-es-Siba (independent country) never furnish any recruits.

The minimum age for the conscript recruits is 20 years.

The physique of the Maghzen troops is on the whole fair, but there are in the ranks many old men, and some boys as young as 10 years of age.

Each Kaïd Agha (Commander of 1,000 men) considers his troops to be entirely at his own disposal, and he does not hesitate to employ them according to his own inclinations; hence the men now serving on the side of Mulai Hafid.

Irregular Troops.

In addition to the Maghzen army, there are a certain number of irregular troops, and the strength of any force of Maghzen troops, when it is on the march, becomes a varying quantity, for the commander of it impresses from the tribe whose country he is passing through so many men—500, 1,000, &c.—to help him against the next tribe, so that by the end of the march the force may have increased by 50 per cent. But this is not always the case, as the impressed men are often sent back to their tribes when no longer required, and also there is a large percentage of wastage from desertion.

Administration, War Minister, and Foreign Missions.

Tangier is really the administrative head-quarters of the army, and from there troops are sent (mostly by sea) to reinforce any threatened point.

The War Minister, Mohammed Gebbas, is a man of little courage, and rarely leaves his house at Tangier; he, however, exercises a certain amount of direction over military affairs, and is in close touch with the Maghzen.

The French Mission consists of—Frenchmen: Commandant Fournié, Commandant Mangin, one Captain, one Lieutenant, and one doctor; natives: Five officers and five non-commissioned officers. They, above all, act as interpreters, and are distributed among various places.

The Italian Mission consists of three or four officers, who are with the Sultan at Rabat; they are specially concerned with artillery matters.

The German Mission consists of Major Tachudi and Captain Wolff, who are *hors cadre* from the German army; they are paid by the Sultan and attached to him.

The British mission is represented by Kaïd Maclean. Major Ogilvy,* who formerly belonged to it, was a good man, and there were at one time 800 cavalry trained by him, but these have gradually melted away.

None of these foreign officers have any power of command, and are instructors only. Their advice is listened to by the Moors, but rarely acted on, the excuse being that precepts that are sound and applicable in Europe may not be suitable in Morocco.

There is a certain amount of transport at Tangier in charge of Commandant

* Died in 1906.

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Fournié (French), and he exercises some control over the dispatch of troops and stores.

Fighting Material and Discipline.

As fighting material the rank and file of the Maghzen army are very good, but the officers are practically quite valueless, as they have no sense of discipline and no military knowledge, and their one idea is to make money out of their men.

The payment of the men is now carried out under the supervision of French officers, but there are still, no doubt, many opportunities for the Moorish officers to benefit themselves pecuniarily.

Armament and Uniforms.

The variety of rifles and guns with which the Maghzen troops are armed is extraordinary. The small arms consist mostly of Gras rifles and three varieties of Martini-Henrys; there are also a certain number of Winchesters, Mausers, and other fire-arms. There is a reserve of about 10,000 small arms in store at Tangier, and plenty of small-arms ammunition.

Artillery armament includes three varieties of Krupp guns, some 5-in., 7·5-in., 8-in., 11-in., and 12-in. centimetre French guns, and a certain number of English (Armstrong) guns.

There are also some Maxim, Hotchkiss, and Gardner machine-guns.

The numerous varieties of ammunition get very mixed up; through ignorance vague and incomplete requisitions are submitted, and consequently the wrong pattern of ammunition is often supplied.

The artillery is practically quite untrained and without instruction.

Uniform.—All arms wear a red tunic with yellow facings; the cavalry do not, as a rule, carry a sword. Cavalry and infantry carry rifles, gunners no arms.

General Situation.

If brought face to face the two Sultans, Abdul Aziz and Mulai Hafid, and their adherents would be very reluctant to fight each other, and would probably agree to some pacific arrangement.

It is probable that Abdul Aziz's mehalla, if it proceeds from Rabat to Fez,* will meet with no serious local opposition on the way. The Zemmurs of the plains have, it is said, been bribed to let the Sultan's mehalla through, but any negotiations of this nature with the hill Zemmur tribes would not be possible.

The French are bound to support the Sultan Abdul Aziz, because they promised to do so when he was hesitating as to signing the Algeciras Treaty, knowing that to do so would put the country against him.

There appears to be no doubt that the withdrawal of the Moroccan troops under Jilali, which were opposed to the Roghi, was the result of Spanish intrigue and bribery. The troops on arrival in Tangier were in good condition and well clothed.

Mulai Hafid at the present time (the 20th April, 1908) is probably on the Um-er-Rbia, though there are some unreliable rumours that he has retired to Marrakesh.

(N.B.—Latest reports appear to confirm this.)

(Signed) GLEICHEN, *Colonel.*

Inclosure 2 in No. 37.

Memorandum by Count Gleichen respecting the Police Force in Morocco.

Strength. Organization.

THE police force is composed of all three arms—infantry, cavalry, and artillery. It consists of ten "tabors," of which two each for Tangier and Casa Blanca, and

* Said to have started April 28, 1908.

the remaining six to the six other ports (Tetuan, Laraish, Rabat, Mazagan, Safi, and Mogador).

Each tabor consists of a varying number of "miyas" (companies), and "jemaas" (sections), of (generally) all three arms. 1 miya = 2 jemaa = 4 rebáa.

A tabor of police numbers 100 to 500 men, and a miya from 42 to 78;* a jemaa 12 to 16.† (In the army a tabor is supposed to number 500, consisting of 5 miyas of 100 each.)

The force is organized entirely in tabors; *i.e.*, there is no central or separate command of infantry, cavalry, or artillery.

It is commanded entirely by Moors, 57 Moorish officers altogether. There are 12 French, and 8 Spanish officers, who are instructors only, under the Swiss Inspector-General, Colonel Müller.

Armament.

The infantry are armed with the Gras rifle and bayonet, the cavalry with Gras carbine and bayonet, and sword (French pattern), and the artillery will probably be armed with some mountain guns [?],‡ but mainly with machine guns.§ (Colonel Müller, Inspector-General, however, did not seem very certain about their armament.) Officers carry revolvers.

Recruitment of Men.

The men are recruited by voluntary enlistment, and have to pass a strict medical examination. They are a fine, well set-up lot as far as Tangier is concerned. Many of the men come from as far as Ujda to join the police. They look happy and contented, and get their pay regularly.

Uniform.

The infantry are dressed in red tunics, with dark blue collars (with number of tabor in brass on it), and cuffs with three buttons; dark blue Moorish breeches, putties, and ankle boots. As great-coat infantry and artillery have the brown jelab, and cavalry a dark blue burnous. Red tarboosh.

Pay.

The daily pay is as follows:—

Rank.	At Tangier.	Elsewhere.
	Pesetas.	Pesetas.
Kaïd tabor	..	20
Mutessarif*	..	15
Kaïd miya (there are no subalterns)	..	7½
Imâm (priest)	..	3
Mokaddem (sergeant)	2·75	2·50
Maûn (corporal)	2·25	2·00
Askar (1st class)	1·75	1·50
Askar (2nd class)	1·50	1·25

* Administrative officer.

They are housed and clothed (at least the men are), but have to find their own food.

Barracks.

There are two police barracks outside Tangier and one inside.

* Nominally 60. † Nominally 12 (artillery). ‡ 1 per jemaa. § 2 per jemaa.

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DISTRIBUTION.—The distribution will be as follows:—

	Tabor No.	Remarks.	French or Spanish Control.	Arm.	How Divided.	Men.	Total.
Tangier ..	1	"Extra-urbain" (50 cavalry and 150 infantry recruited to date)	French ..	Infantry ..	4 miyas ..	265	500
				Cavalry ..	5 „ ..	211	
				Artillery ..	2 jemaa ..	24	
„ ..	2	"Urbain" (80 infantry recruited to date)	Spanish ..	Infantry ..	4 miyas ..	246	250
				Cavalry ..	4 men ..	4	
Casa Blanca ..	3	"Urbain"	French ..	Infantry ..	2 miyas ..	96	100
				Cavalry ..	4 men ..	4	
„ „ ..	4	"Extra-urbain" (not recruiting well)	Spanish ..	Infantry ..	2 miyas ..	147	300
				Cavalry ..	3 „ ..	129	
				Artillery ..	2 jemaa ..	24	
Tetuan	5	Complete	„ ..	Infantry ..	3 miyas ..	235	275
				Cavalry ..	1 jemaa ..	16	
				Artillery ..	2 „ ..	24	
Laraish ..	6	.. ..	„ ..	Infantry ..	2 miyas ..	135	175
				Cavalry ..	1 jemaa ..	16	
				Artillery ..	2 „ ..	24	
Rabat	7	Complete	French ..	Infantry ..	3 miyas ..	219	275
				Cavalry ..	2 jemaa ..	32	
				Artillery ..	2 „ ..	24	
Mogador ..	8	Going very badly	„ ..	Infantry ..	3 miyas ..	219	275
				Cavalry ..	2 jemaa ..	32	
				Artillery ..	2 „ ..	24	
Mazagan ..	9	.. ..	„ ..	Infantry ..	2 miyas ..	135	175
				Cavalry ..	1 jemaa ..	16	
				Artillery ..	2 „ ..	24	
Safi	10	.. ..	„ ..	Infantry ..	2 miyas ..	135	175
				Cavalry ..	1 jemaa ..	16	
				Artillery ..	2 „ ..	24	

Total—Infantry 1,832
Cavalry 476
Artillery 192
} Grand total, 2,500.

According to the Algeciras Act, there were not to be more than 600, or less than 150 at any port; but Tangier required not less than 750, so that in order to allot more to that port the numbers at some of the other places were reduced.

For further details regarding the police force see the "Règlement sur les Corps de Police, institués dans les huit ports de la côte Marocaine d'après l'Acte d'Algésiras, 1907" (slightly modified since printing).

(Signed) GLEICHEN, *Colonel.*

April 1908.

[15852] No. 38.

Sir G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received May 9.)

(No. 95. Confidential.)

Tangier, April 27, 1908.

Sir,

HAVING noticed in the "Temps" of the 17th instant a summary of the official report on the landing of the French sailors at Casa Blanca and the bombardment of the town on the 5th August last, I requested Mr. Madden to furnish me with any observations on the subject which might suggest themselves to him, having viewed the matter with greater calm than was perhaps possible at the moment of the bombardment. Mr. Madden does not feel justified in modifying his opinion that the bombardment from every point of view was a great mistake. As evidence of the fact that order had been already restored in the town, he states that all those suspected of being implicated in the murder of the European workmen had been placed in gaol by the Moorish authorities. These prisoners subsequently escaped during the bombard-

ment. He is still of opinion that very little damage to property, or loss of life would have occurred had the French waited until reinforcements arrived instead of prematurely landing a force sufficient to provoke hostility but not to prevent it.

There is, in Mr. Madden's opinion, very little doubt that had the Commander of the "Galilee" persisted in his intention of landing this force four days earlier, every European in the town would have been massacred before reinforcements arrived.

Eye-witnesses of what occurred on the morning of the 5th state that the French landing party was fired upon by a Moorish soldier as they came up to the Waterport. The French thereupon charged up the street, firing on every one they encountered.

It is possible that other soldiers near at hand may have then begun to return their fire. Very little can be said in support of the statement that an ambush had been planned by the Moorish soldiery, as the landing was quite unexpected by them.

Mr. Madden is of opinion that had not the Arabs at first been too intent on looting to seriously attack the Consulates, the latter could never have held out.

From a private source Mr. Madden learns that the French Vice-Consul, M. Maigret, who expressed himself in no measured terms in regard to the action of the "Galilee," has been punished by the loss of ten years seniority, while the Commander of that vessel, Captain Ollivier, was promoted after the affair, but subsequently resigned.

I have been informed privately that the Commander of the "Galilee" was urged to this unfortunate excess of zeal by the other officers and men of his vessel, who had been bantered by their compatriots for having been so long in Moorish waters without having done anything, and Captain Ollivier was thus encouraged to seize the first opportunity for endeavouring to make a name for himself and the vessel under his command.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

[15853] No. 39.

Sir G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received May 9.)

(No. 96.)

Tangier, May 2, 1908.

Sir,

A GERMAN newspaper which appears here, the "Deutsche Marokko Zeitung," published a few days ago a letter purporting to come from Casa Blanca, in which the conduct of the French troops was painted in far from flattering terms. The French officers were accused of drunkenness and riotous living, and of insulting Germans, and a comparison was drawn between them and the Spanish officers to the advantage of the latter, and the question was asked how long would Germany tolerate such a state of affairs.

A reply has now appeared in the "Dépêche Marocaine," which is generally regarded as the organ of the French Legation. This reply, which I inclose herewith,* is couched in moderate terms, and points out that it has now for some time been the object of Germany to make bad blood between France and Spain in this country.

I understand that Count St. Aulaire, the French Chargé d'Affaires, has made some observations to Dr. Rosen on the subject of the offensive article, who no doubt replied that the paper had no official character, but, as Count St. Aulaire observed to me, the paper in question could hardly be supported by the German community here, and he had indeed seen a list of those who provided the capital for the newspaper, among whom figured for considerable sums the German Minister and the First Secretary of the Legation. Count St. Aulaire added that he did not desire to imply that the article in question had been inspired by Dr. Rosen, but under the circumstances he thought he should exercise some control over it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

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* Not printed.

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[15854]

No. 40.

Sir G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received May 9.)

(No. 97.)

Tangier, May 3, 1908.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a Report giving a summary of events in Morocco during the past week.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

P.S.—I have also the honour to inclose a Memorandum by Mr. MacLeod, giving the news he has received from the Fez district during the past week.

G. L.

Inclosure 1 in No. 40.

Report for Week ending May 1, 1908.

THE most conflicting reports continue to be received in regard to the position of Mulai Hafid. According to information received from French sources, it would appear that the request of the Pretender for a free passage through the Zemour country was refused, on the ground that no Sultan had ever been allowed through. Mulai Hafid is therefore now returning to the Ziana, who also refused him a passage, but who are open to bribery. He has, it is stated, very few men with him, and, even if he did reach Mequinez, could hardly receive a warm welcome with so small a following. On the other hand, the Shereefs of Wazan are very active in their support of Mulai Hafid, and Alcazar would go over to the latter were it not for the mehallas for some time past ready to start from Tangier and Rabat.

In the opinion of Mr. Madden, however, it is open to doubt whether some of the important Shereefs, such as those of Bujad and Tadla, would really be willing or able to prevent Mulai Hafid's passage to Fez, although the French appear to count on their loyalty. Mr. Madden thinks it not impossible that Mulai Hafid may reach Fez, and that, on the other hand, the Sultan may enter Morocco City, as the latter would have no difficulty in passing through Showia with the French in that province, while some of the Houz tribes, notably the Seraghna, are now in favour of His Majesty, as a result of the exactions of Mulai Hafid. The French authorities state further that the Rehamna have now declared in favour of Abdul Aziz. Indeed, the French Consul at Casa Blanca is of opinion that His Majesty will shortly be proclaimed at Morocco City. This would, however, appear to be a somewhat optimistic forecast, as Mr. Madden is informed that there is but little likelihood of a serious movement in favour of His Majesty in the Marrakesh district so long as Hadj Thami, a relative of Mulai Hafid, remains Governor of the southern capital.

There has been some fighting of a not very serious nature in the Achach and Emdakra districts. It appears that the latter are anxious to submit to the French, in order that they may get in the harvest, but their submission is not to be accepted at once on account of the determined hostility by which they have lately distinguished themselves. General d'Amade is not expected back in Casa Blanca for some weeks. He is determined to thoroughly tranquillize the tribes and establish the system of blockhouses before his return.

News has reached Mogador to the effect that Kaïd M'toogui has deserted the cause of Mulai Hafid, and returned to his province. It is believed that he was dismissed by Mulai Hafid in the hope that the adherence of Kaïd Anfloos would thus be obtained, as the support of the latter was supposed to have been alienated by the presence of his enemy at the Hafidian Court.

The mehallas from Tangier, Alcazar, and Rabat are all reported to have set out for Fez, but whether they will ever get there appears very doubtful. From later news it appears that the Rabat force was not allowed to proceed very far, as the Sultan feared that Mulai Hafid was approaching Rabat. The French authorities also do not appear to have quite made up their minds as to the expediency of the expedition setting forth at present.

F. R.

Inclosure 2 in No. 40.

Summary of News from Fez District.

THERE was no definite news from Fez received here during the week ended on the 25th April. Since then, however, I have received the following:—

Late in the afternoon of the 21st April, two Moors, one armed with a large club and the other with a sword, and followed by some rabble, went to the French and German post-offices, which they entered and smashed the letter-boxes, counters, &c. They then went to the British post-office, but, as it chanced to be shut, they were able to smash only the letter-box, which is in the wall outside the door. The Hafidist authorities arrested the men—who the authorities assert are mad—and have confined them in the lunatic asylum. Thereafter guards were placed at the post-offices, and the damage done is in course of being repaired at the authorities' expense.

On the 24th April the (Hafidian) Viceroy Amrani sent for Hadj Tahir Mikwar (who is in charge of the British Consulate), and said Mulai Hafid wished him, Hadj Taleb Lazarac, Sid Tahir Ben Smirs Benani, and Sid Mohammed Ben Abbas Cabbag to go to Tangier on his behalf. The Viceroy exhibited a letter from Mulai Hafid's Vizir Glawi in this sense. The details of the business to be done were, however, contained in another paper which the Viceroy withheld until he should learn whether the Moors named were willing to go. Hadj Tahir Mikwar, on the ground of the duties he already had, which he could not set aside or depute, refused to go. The Viceroy made no effort to overcome his objections, and Hadj Tahir does not say whether this request was made to the other Moors referred to. It is noteworthy, however, that of these four Moors two (Mikwar and Lazarac) are under British protection, and the other two are reputed to be under Italian protection. The idea may, therefore, have been to send persons who would not be exposed to arrest should they come to Tangier.

Amongst the Delegates Mulai Hafid has sent from Marrakesh to Europe are three natives of Fez, namely, Hadj Mohammed Ben Thami Burdai (a British commercial agent), Sid Mohammed Ben Abdelghani Cabbag (many years resident in Italy, and who speaks French and Italian), and Sid Mohammed Ben Hadj Abdalkader Bennis (a cousin of the Bennis who is one of the Board of Foreign Affairs at Tangier), Private Treasurer ("Amin Es-Shkara") to Mulai Hafid.

Parties of Gerouan, Mjatt, and Hamian tribesmen (*i.e.*, from tracts Mequinez-Rabat, Mequinez-Laraiche, and Mequinez-Fez), numbering in all some 600, have arrived at Fez.

Presumably these have come to offer their services towards resisting the mehallas expected from Rabat and Laraiche, or to assist Mulai Hafid to beset Rabat. The parties of Beni Hassan, Sherarda, and other tribes, who recently came to Fez on the same errand, and were given presents, &c., went afterwards to Rabat, where they are said to have received gifts also, so the present parties are not getting much credence or attention, particularly as they do not include any men of acknowledged influence amongst them.

The contingents of "Mujahadin" (Holy Warriors), who went from various districts southward of Fez recently, have now returned to Fez. They were stopped in Zayan by orders of Mulai Hafid, who had directed that no strangers were to be allowed to enter Shawiya at present.

On the 27th April a letter from Mulai Hafid was read in the Karouin Mosque at Fez. It was dated the 3rd April, and stated that there was no change yet in Shawiya, but that negotiations on that matter were in progress, and he hoped, after the then ensuing feast, to cross the River Oum-Erbea and come to Fez. (He has since then crossed that river.)

At Fez the whole public seem excited by the news of mehallas about to be sent from Rabat. The well-to-do people and the respectable elements in the industrial classes appear to want peace and quietness, under either Mulai Hafid or Mulai Abdul Aziz, and dread only conflicts during which the city would be at the mercy of mobs. Meantime suspicion reigns everywhere.

The Hafidists, for instance, are now demanding that the forts, palace, &c., at New Fez be garrisoned by men from Old Fez, as those positions command the old town, and to this the men in authority at New Fez refuse to accede. The Hafidists have, further, had meetings at which it was resolved to send Delegates from the city

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to the surrounding tribes, reminding the latter of their promises to uphold Mulai Hafid, and exhorting them to be ready to resist those mehallas from Rabat.

According to all reports at Fez, Mulai Hafid was coming viâ Zair and Zemmur, and not viâ Zayan, as formerly expected. The Shereef Sheikh Kittany was expected to leave Mequinez on the 27th April to join Mulai Hafid in Zemmur.

(Signed) J. M. MACLEOD.

Tangier, May 2, 1908.

[15855] No. 41.

Sir G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received May 9.)

(No. 98.)

Tangier, May 3, 1908.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 81 of the 11th April, I now have the honour to inform you that Raisuli has written me a letter and another to Cid Mehemmed-el-Guebbas, giving information as to the state in which he found the mountain tribes on his return to Beni Aros. From the letters, it would appear that the Shereefs of Wazan had taken advantage of his absence to spread reports that he had accepted the Sultan's invitation to proceed to Rabat, and had been arrested there. He was able, however, by his return to disprove that report, and also to assure the tribes that he had gone thoroughly into the question of the respective merits of Abdul Aziz and Mulai Hafid, and he had arrived at the only conclusion possible, viz., that they should remain loyal to the former, who was the more suitable. He had received assurances at Tangier that there was no intention on the part of any Christian nation to take possession of their country, and they should not listen to the fictions invented by the Wazan Shereefs and by the Shereef-el-Merani at Fez, as they were disseminating these reports for objects of their own, and with the intention of blinding the tribes to the true facts. If Raisuli's word can be taken, the tribes have agreed to follow his suggestions.

In his letter to Cid Guebbas, Raisuli mentioned that he had appointed Governors and Sheikhs over the tribes, and impressed upon him the necessity of the Makhzen acting with energy and giving him proper support, which would enable him to continue his propaganda in favour of Abdul Aziz.

In his reply to Raisuli, Cid Guebbas has omitted all reference to this matter, as he does not think it desirable to have any correspondence with him on matters of this description, or on any other which could possibly be interpreted as acknowledging him in an official capacity, and he is of opinion that Raisuli merely put it in his letter as a bait.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

[15967] No. 42.

Sir G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received May 9.)

(No. 21.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, May* 9, 1908.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 102 of the 8th instant. I learn from Count Sainte-Aulaire that he has been instructed by his Government to agree to the new drainage scheme put forward by the Germans. I venture to ask your instructions in the matter, as it would seem that all the other Representatives are disposed to accept the new proposal, and Dr. Rosen is pressing for a meeting in order that the question may be decided.

The German Minister should, in my opinion, be requested to give some undertaking that the State engineers should have some control over the works, as also that the Germans by this Concession do not gain the right to all future port works. Count Sainte-Aulaire, however, being desirous of avoiding any appearance of giving way with a bad grace, does not see his way to making the above suggestions, although they have his approval.

[16014] No. 43.

Sir F. Lascelles to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received May 11.)

(No. 210. Confidential.)

Berlin, May 6, 1908.

Sir,

WITH reference to my telegram No. 14 of this day's date, I have the honour to report that the French Ambassador called upon me this morning, and spoke at considerable length of the conversations he had recently had with Herr von Schön with regard to the reception to be accorded to the emissaries of Mulai Hafid who were now on their way to Berlin. He had pointed out that Mulai Hafid was a rebel against his brother, and had no power of appointing Representatives to foreign Powers. Herr von Schön had agreed to this, and said there could be no question of recognizing the emissaries, or of giving them an official reception. At the same time, it would be interesting to hear what they had to say, and, although he would not receive them himself, he thought it would be advisable that the Under-Secretary of State should do so. M. Cambon strongly demurred to this, and urged that they should not be received either officially or officiously.

At a subsequent interview, during which Herr von Schön had shown considerable annoyance at an article which had appeared in the "Temps," and which M. Cambon himself considered unnecessarily violent and singularly inopportune, Herr von Schön dwelt upon the difficult position in which he found himself. He had no wish to do anything which would add to the difficulties which France was encountering in Morocco, but at the same time he had to protect German interests. He had received reports from the German residents in Morocco to the effect that the chances of Mulai Hafid were quite as good as those of Abdul Aziz, and that it would be little short of a calamity if the port of Saffi were to be recaptured for Abdul Aziz either by the French or by Abdul Aziz himself with French assistance. M. Cambon was able to reply that it was perfectly natural that the German residents should have reported in this sense. They were all traders, including the German Consul at Saffi, and as long as that port was in possession of Mulai Hafid no customs dues were levied, and the merchants, the great majority of whom at Saffi were Germans, were able to import their goods free of duty. They had taken full advantage of this privilege, and there could be no doubt that they had furnished Mulai Hafid with supplies, including arms and ammunition. It was evident that they should wish this state of things to continue, although it might cause some embarrassment to the German Government, who could not divest themselves of responsibility for the acts of their subjects. Herr von Schön also alluded to the unfavourable criticisms which had been made on the White Book, which had recently been published, and he feared that he would be violently attacked in the German press unless he could show that he had not neglected German interests. M. Cambon replied that he certainly would never be able to make any one in Paris believe that the German Government were afraid of the German press, and Herr von Schön subsequently admitted that if he could show that the German Government had given proper protection to German interests the press would probably follow the indications which might be given to them. M. Cambon took note of the admission that there were circumstances under which the German Government gave "indications" to the press.

A third conversation took place, in which Herr von Schön informed M. Cambon that it had now been arranged that Mulai Hafid's emissaries should be received, not by him or Herr Stemrich, but by the Secretary of the German Legation at Tangier, who happened to be in Berlin, and who spoke Arabic. M. Cambon asked that the reception should not take place at the Foreign Office, but in the Secretary's private apartments, but Herr von Schön pointed out that this would be impossible, as the apartments consisted of one room on the fourth floor of an hotel.

This was how the matter stood when Herr von Schön had to leave Berlin to be in attendance on the Emperor at Vienna. M. Cambon is convinced that Herr von Schön sincerely desires to avoid any action which would increase the difficulties of France in Morocco; he believes, though with less conviction, that Prince Bülow has the same desire, but he fears that there may be others in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs who would not be sorry to see those difficulties increased rather than diminished. He hopes, however, that the news of the occupation of Saffi by the forces of Abdul Aziz, which reached Berlin after Herr von Schön's departure, may induce Mulai Hafid's emissaries to give up their journey, and to return to Morocco at once. If, however,

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they should come to Berlin, and call upon the Ambassadors, what attitude should I adopt? He himself would certainly refuse to receive them.

I replied that it was out of the question that they should be received in any official capacity, but that if they expressed a wish to call upon me I should be disposed to treat the visit as a private one, but that I would apply to you for instructions as to how I should act.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

16019] No. 44.

Sir F. Lascelles to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received May 11.)

(No. 216.) *Berlin, May 8, 1908.*

Sir,

THE question of the reception of the emissaries of Mulai Hafid in Berlin is continuing to occupy the attention of a large section of the German press, which during the last few days has manifested a certain degree of anxiety with regard to the development of French policy in Morocco, and the line which the German Government should take, in virtue of her participation in the Algeciras Act, for the protection of German interests in that country.

A Tangier correspondent of the "Kölnische Zeitung," for instance, reports the seizure on pretext of treachery by the Mdakera tribe of a German subject who had been sent by General d'Amade to make proposals of peace to them. Hereupon General d'Amade ordered the man's house and gardens to be destroyed and his servants to be seized on the ground that he had gone over to Mulai Hafid; even had this been the case, the correspondent observes, this would have afforded no justification for such action—as a matter of fact, the man is still a captive of the Mdakera. Another case which has aroused a great deal of ill-feeling among the German inhabitants is that of a rich, well-to-do, and peacefully minded German protected merchant of the interior, whose property has recently been completely destroyed by the French troops, and his cattle and all his cash looted, although he had not taken any part in the fighting. The Germans in Casa Blanca consider that such proceedings are deliberately intended to impair the prestige of Germany in Morocco, and that the French are merely trying to see what lengths they can go to in dealing with German protected subjects.

The "Berliner Tageblatt" this morning meanwhile returns to Mulai Hafid in a leading article, in which it refers to the demands made in the French press that his emissaries should not be received at all here; notes that Germany has a perfect right to do so, if she considers it expedient; and finally criticises strongly the decision arrived at to receive them "neither warmly nor coldly, but lukewarmly." This decision, the paper considers, is simply the outcome of the inconsequence displayed by the Imperial Government at regular intervals in their foreign policy. Clearly it would not be consonant with the peaceable and intelligible policy displayed in the White Book to receive the emissaries. Such a policy is the only straightforward and right one, and is no doubt the one on which the Government is at present bent. All the more reason, then, to avoid useless manifestations which lead to no good results.

Is it logical, again, towards the Moroccans themselves to receive the envoys of the rival Sultan, the "rebel" Mulai Hafid, at the Imperial Foreign Office? On the 31st March, 1905, the Emperor announced to the uncle of Abdul Aziz that he came to visit him in his capacity of an independent Sovereign, who, His Majesty trusted, would keep his country open to the friendly commercial rivalry of all nations. Abdul Aziz is hard pressed now, indeed; but is that a reason to cast him so hurriedly out of favour, and will Germany gain in reputation as a reliable friend in Oriental eyes by ogling every new "Pretender" who comes along?

Have the Imperial Government, moreover, asks the Berlin paper, ascertained what attitude other Governments will adopt towards the emissaries? In any case, what advantages do they anticipate from the interview, what gain for the present, what prospects for the future? "No one knows where these advantages are to be found, and so the whole episode remains a mere act of regrettable inconsequence; doubly regrettable when placed in the frame of an intelligent policy."

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

[16141] No. 45.

Mr. Lister to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received May 11.)

(No. 18.)
(Telegraphic.) *En clair.* *Paris, May 10, 1908.*

YOUR despatch No. 194 of the 6th instant.

Mulai Hafid's envoys will not be received either officially or unofficially by the French Government.

M. Pichon desires me to express his thanks to you for your communication.

[15967] No. 46.

Sir Edward Grey to Mr. Lister.

(No. 39.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, May 11, 1908.*

SIR G. LOWTHER'S telegram No. 21: Drainage works at Tangier.

Please inform French Government that, in accordance with their desire, His Majesty's Government will not refuse to authorize Sir G. Lowther to join with his French colleague in accepting the German proposal respecting the drainage works. His Majesty's Government, however, consider that a reservation should be made giving the State Engineer a certain measure of control over the drainage works, and that an assurance should be obtained that any questions connected with harbour works in Morocco will in future be dealt with in strict accordance with the terms of the Algeciras Act. They hope that the French Representative at Tangier will be instructed to support Sir G. Lowther in making proposals in the above sense.

[16330] No. 47.

Mr. Lister to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received May 12.)

(No. 185.) *Paris, May 11, 1908.*

Sir,

I CALLED upon the Minister for Foreign Affairs this afternoon, and, in the course of conversation, alluded to the interview which M. Cambon had with you on the 6th instant on the subject of the drainage works at Tangier. I repeated that, in this particular instance, His Majesty's Government, knowing how anxious the French Government were to get the question settled, had not wished to place any obstacles in the way, but that this case was not in any way to be taken as a precedent. I then asked his Excellency if he could not let me know what the exact facts were withregard to the harbour works at Laraiche. His Majesty's Government, I said, could not help feeling preoccupied at the course which events appeared to be taking, and felt considerable anxiety in regard to the question of future works there and at other Moorish ports. By the Algeciras Act, it was arranged that such works were to be adjudicated by open tender, and it was not possible to admit that British firms should be excluded from important works in Morocco owing to arrangements entered into between two Governments.

M. Pichon said that he perfectly understood the preoccupation of His Majesty's Government, and shared their views. They could, moreover, feel assured that France, who was determined to act with them, would take care that British firms should not suffer any prejudice any way.

As regarded the works at Laraiche, he told me he could not give me an absolutely precise answer. The Germans, he knew, had been full of pretensions in the matter, and the question had been discussed between Dr. Rosen and M. Regnault in connection with that of the Tangier drainage works. He believed that some sort of an arrangement had been arrived at, but he could say nothing for certain; he promised, however, to let me have a note on the subject not later than to-morrow.

He said that, in political questions in Morocco, Germany had apparently now taken the line of raising no difficulties for France, but she was making up for it in com-

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mercial and economic matters, and never missed an opportunity of accusing her of wishing to oust all foreign competition and of keeping everything for herself.

I have, &c.
(Signed) REGINALD LISTER.

[16445] No. 48.

Sir G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received May* 12.)

(No. 22.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, May* 12, 1908.

THE French Government have instructed Count Sainte-Aulaire to support me on both the points mentioned in your telegram ~~No. 13~~ of the 11th May, on the subject of the drainage works, but if there is any danger of the arrangement being endangered by insisting on the control of engineers, he is not to press this.

Dr. Rosen agreed that engineers shall be allowed to decide whether plan harmonizes with any drainage works which may probably be undertaken in the future, and also that when the work is finished, and before it is finally handed over, they shall decide as to its solidarity and agreement with the plans. But he will not consent to the plan and materials used being placed under the actual control of the engineers. I further obtained from him his assent that all future works in all the ports of Morocco should be submitted to adjudication.

The question is to be decided at a meeting fixed for the morning of the 14th, and I propose to agree, subject to the above-named conditions, unless I receive your instructions to the contrary.

[16446] No. 49.

Mr. Lister to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received May* 13.)

[By Post.]

(No. 19.)
(Telegraphic.) *En clair.* *Paris, May* 12, 1908.

YOUR telegram No. 39 of 11th May [Tangier drainage works].

Telegraphic instructions have already been sent to French Representative at Tangier to support Sir Gerard Lowther in obtaining assurance as to future, and M. Pichon promises to send further telegram to-day instructing him to support him also in making reservation with regard to control by State Engineer.

[16446] No. 50.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir G. Lowther.

(No. 15.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, May* 13, 1908.

DRAINAGE works at Tangier.

Your telegram No. 22 of the 12th instant and Mr. Lister's telegram No. 19 of the same date.

You may agree to the conditions enumerated in your above-mentioned telegram, provided that a clear understanding is arrived at that the provisions of the Algeciras Act will be adhered to in the case of all future harbour works.

(Confidential.)

It would, in our view, be greatly preferable that the works now in question should be carried out under the actual control of the State Engineer, but His Majesty's Government will not make the concession of this point an indispensable condition of their acceptance.

[16569] No. 51.

Mr. Lister to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received May* 14.)

(No. 186.)
Sir, *Paris, May* 12, 1908.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 19 of to-day's date, I have the honour to report that I saw the Minister for Foreign Affairs this afternoon and handed to him a Memorandum in the sense of your telegram No. 39 of yesterday, relative to the German proposals for the drainage works at Tangier.

M. Pichon assured me that he was fully prepared to meet the wishes of His Majesty's Government in the matter. The general instructions given to the French Representative at Tangier were to co-operate always with his British colleague. He promised, however, to dispatch a special telegram to-day to M. de Sainte-Aulaire, instructing him to support Sir Gerard Lowther in making a reservation to the effect that the State Engineer should exercise a measure of control over the drainage works; and in obtaining an assurance that all future questions of harbour works in Morocco should be dealt with strictly in accordance with the Algeciras Act. M. Pichon said that he hoped to let me have the note with regard to the Laraiche Harbour works this evening, but it has not yet arrived.

M. Pichon then alluded to the reception by the German Committee for Morocco of the envoys of Mulai Hafid, which appeared to preoccupy him. There was no disguising the fact, he said, that Mulai Hafid was the German Sultan, and since Safi had been taken from him his adherents in Berlin had become more active on his behalf.

On leaving M. Pichon I went to see the Political Director in connection with another matter of business. I repeated to him my conversation with M. Pichon, and he told me that, on a telegram from M. Cambon, instructions had already been sent by telegraph to M. de Sainte-Aulaire to support Sir Gerard Lowther in obtaining the assurance desired in connection with harbour works in Morocco in the future. He would see that the further telegram with regard to the reservation that the execution of the drainage works should be to some extent controlled by the State Engineer should be sent off at once. M. Louis said that he considered that the taking of Safi was most important, and had dealt a serious blow to Mulai Hafid. Not only was it the port at which contraband was most extensively carried on, but also the actual customs dues there were lower than at the other ports, with the result that commerce was very largely attracted to it, to the great advantage of its possessor. It was excessively difficult, he said, to obtain reliable information as to what was going on in Morocco the moment you got away from the ports or the immediate neighbourhood of the French camp, but he had not as yet received any confirmation of the report published by Reuter's Agency that Mulai Hafid had entered Mequinez, and hoped that it was incorrect.

I have, &c.
(Signed) REGINALD LISTER.

[16791] No. 52.

Sir G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received May* 16.)

(No. 99.)
Sir, *Tangier, May* 6, 1908.

AS I reported to you by telegraph, the port of Saffi was taken possession of by the troops of the Sultan on the morning of the 3rd instant.

Some 600 men were sent down from Rabat in a cargo-boat, and landed without the slightest opposition.

A curious feature of the incident is that the men selected to reoccupy this port on behalf of the Sultan were the men recently transported to Rabat from Mar Chica, who were always credited with strong sympathies for Mulai Hafid, and who belong to the South of Morocco.

It is therefore quite possible that, finding themselves in the neighbourhood of their own homes, they may now adopt an occupation more congenial than the unpopular calling of service under the banner of the Sultan.

Saffi had been in the hands of the Pretender, Mulai Hafid, since the end of

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August 1907, and, apart from the fact that the Sultan's exchequer was not swelled by the receipts from that custom-house, it was also the port through which all the arms, ammunition, and other foreign stores were introduced into the country. But I understand that the French, while not concealing the importance to the Sultan of recovering Saffi, gave His Majesty very serious warning that nothing should be done which might bring about a repetition of the events of Casa Blanca.

The German Minister, I am informed, warned the Makhzen that the step would be fraught with great danger.

Frequently the Makhzen had given out that the attempt was about to be made, and as frequently nothing whatever was attempted, and, indeed, when the *coup* was finally carried out, it was without the slightest warning.

If the Makhzen troops are willing and able to remain in possession of Saffi this move may be considered as the one bright spot amongst a succession of recent blunders.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

[16581] No. 53.

Sir G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received May* 14.)

(No. 102.) *Tangier, May* 8, 1908.

Sir,

DR. ROSEN came to see me again to-day to inquire whether I had any reply to the communication I made to you in my despatch No. 85 of the 13th ultimo regarding the proposed modification of the Rooke scheme for the drainage works.

I said I had none, but that the question was engaging the attention of His Majesty's Government. It was not a matter that could easily be dismissed, as the principle of adjudication laid down by the Act of Algeciras was involved. I asked Dr. Rosen whether he had anything further to communicate regarding the French view. He replied that he was somewhat embarrassed. In Paris his Government had received assurances that there was no objection to the proposed scheme, but the French Chargé d'Affaires here said his instructions did not coincide with that view. All Rosen demanded was that the scheme should either be accepted or rejected, and in the latter case he insinuated that it would form the subject of a claim against the Makhzen. Dr. Rosen added that M. von Schön had spoken to M. Cambon on the subject, and that the latter, who was about to leave for Paris, had undertaken to arrange the matter there. The German Minister added that it was absurd that there should be so much fuss and quarrelling about a mere trifle. His estimate was that the total profit in the undertaking would only amount to 40,000 fr., divided among four persons, including the French participants. I said that I could not admit that there had been any quarrelling, but I agreed that the matter was trifling, though a departure from the principle of adjudication had better, if possible, be avoided.

Until I received instructions I thought no useful purpose would be served by a meeting of the Sanitary Council, and Dr. Rosen said that once a final arrangement with the French had been come to he would let me know, and would then ask me to invite you to give me authority to discuss the matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

[16797] No. 54.

Sir G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received May* 16.)

(No. 106.) *Tangier,* May 10, 1908.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to state that Cid Abdelkrim Ben Sliman, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, has addressed a note to the doyen of the Diplomatic Body for communication to the foreign Representatives intimating that it is the intention of the Makhzen to put into force from the 1st July next the provisions of Chapter 5 of the Act of Algeciras dealing with those Regulations by which captains of merchant-vessels

must deposit at the Custom-house a copy of the manifest, and persons clearing goods must file a detailed statement of the goods, the kind, value, &c.

I have issued a Circular to this effect to the Consular officers at the ports.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

[16827] No. 55.

Mr. Lister to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received May* 16.)

(No. 189.) *Paris, May* 15, 1908.

Sir,

FOUR envoys of Mulai Hafid, accompanied by M. Jourdan, a Frenchman from Morocco, presented themselves this morning at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and requested to be received by M. Pichon. His Excellency declined to receive them or to depute anyone else to do so. They quitted the Ministry without leaving any written communication. They then proceeded to the Palais de l'Elysée, where an interview was likewise refused them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) REGINALD LISTER.

[16935] No. 56.

Sir F. Lascelles to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received May* 18.)

(No. 223.) *Berlin, May* 14, 1908.

Sir,

THE Envoys of Muley Hafid were yesterday received at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. As I had the honour to report in my despatch No. 210, Confidential, of the 6th instant, the reception was performed by Baron Langwerth von Simmern, Secretary of the German Legation at Tangier, who is at present in Berlin on leave.

The two Envoys handed to Baron Langwerth a letter addressed by Muley Hafid to the Emperor, a copy of which has already been translated into German by the Berlin Oriental Seminary, and made a statement to the effect that Muley Hafid was now *de facto* Ruler of Morocco with the exception of the coast towns, and that he had been acknowledged by the Ulema as the only lawful Sultan according to the Koran. Further, they stated that Muley Hafid intended to observe the Treaties made by Morocco with foreign Powers, in particular the General Act of the Algeciras Conference, and they also announced his intention to accord equal treatment to all foreign Powers.

They requested the Imperial German Government, on behalf of Muley Hafid, to enter into negotiations with the French Government and the other Governments who were signatories of the General Act, with a view to obtaining the withdrawal of the French troops and putting an end to the present conflict. If this were done it was promised that peace would be speedily restored, and Muley Hafid announces that his particular attention as Sultan would be directed towards the encouragement of trade with the Powers.

In reply to this, Baron Langwerth informed the Envoys that the German Legation at Tangier had conveyed the note from Muley Hafid announcing his intention to send a Mission to Berlin to the Imperial Government. Herr Stemrich, the *ad interim* Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, did not see his way to entering into official relations with the Envoys, since they were not dispatched by a recognized international person. Herr Stemrich had, however, commissioned Baron Langwerth, who, as Secretary of the German Legation at Tangier was naturally conversant with Moorish affairs, to receive them and report to the Imperial Government their message. Baron Langwerth expressly stated that he had no power to give them any definite information, and said that it must be reserved for the consideration of the Imperial Government if and when the communication of the Envoys should be made an occasion for communications to be made to the French and the other Signatory Powers in regard to the matters mentioned by Muley Hafid.

Baron Langwerth repeated the intention of Germany to maintain the Act of Algeciras, and declared that before all the Imperial Government desired the re-estab-

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lishment of order in Morocco. The attainment of this end could only be accomplished by the speedy cessation of the conflict regarding the throne.

This closed the interview, and the Envoys then returned to their lodgings. They intend to remain in Berlin about a week longer and then to return to Morocco. During their visit they will be shown the sights by a certain Ben Assai, a Tangier Moor, whom the Emperor brought with him to Germany on his return from Morocco in 1905. Ben Assai is at present employed in the band of the 1st Foot Guard Regiment.

The Morocco Committee are doing their best to make capital out of the visit. They propose to call a public meeting in Berlin, at which they hope to induce Muley Hafid's Envoys to appear, and they are also trying to arrange a series of visits for them to the towns of Germany. So far the Envoys do not appear to have fallen in with these arrangements and intend to leave Berlin in about a week, and it is much to be hoped that they will adhere to their intention. The Morocco Committee are the representatives of the section of German public opinion which favours the advancement of German interests in the Shereefian Empire by all methods, and the exploitation of Muley Hafid's Representatives would undoubtedly take the form of a more or less serious anti-French agitation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

[17170] No. 57.

Mr. Lister to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received May 19.)

(No. 192.)

Sir, *Paris, May* 17, 1908.

IT was officially announced last night that at a Council of Ministers held yesterday a Decree was signed by the President of the Republic appointing General Lyautey, commanding the Division of Oran, to be High Commissioner of the French Government on the Moroccan frontier. It is stated that General Lyautey will in this capacity superintend, in concert with a Shereefian High Commissioner to be appointed immediately, the institution of the régime provided for by the Franco-Moorish Agreements of 1901 and 1902, which includes the organization of the police, the opening of markets, and the development of commercial relations. He will be under the Government of Algeria and the French Legation at Tangier.

I inclose herein the text of the official communiqué on the subject as published in the "Temps."*

I have also the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of an article published in the "Temps" last night,* reviewing the situation on the Algerian frontier of Morocco.

From the year 1901, when an Agreement was signed with Morocco, things went more or less smoothly, and considerable progress was made towards the settlement of the various frontier questions pending between the two countries. These more satisfactory conditions were disturbed by the anti-French policy of Germany, which culminated in the Emperor's visit to Tangier in 1905. The effect of German intervention had been to stir up trouble with the various tribes and undo the work which General Lyautey had so laboriously accomplished.

The Franco-German Agreement of 1905 and the Act of Algeciras, which recognized explicitly the right of France to regulate directly with the Sultan of Morocco all questions relative to the Algerian-Moroccan frontier, restored to France her liberty of action, but unfortunately she failed to make proper use of her opportunity. It was only after a long period of hesitation that the Government decided to take action to assert French authority on the frontier, and even then, instead of concentrating the direction of operations, all their efforts were rendered nugatory by the mistaken policy adopted of mutiplying the commands.

Between the Algerian troops, the section of frontier police, and the Civil Commissioner at Oujda, bombarded by instructions from the Legation at Tangier, the Oran Division, the 19th Corps, the Algerian Government, and the Ministries for Foreign Affairs, Interior, and War, anarchy became absolute and impotence was the necessary consequence.

To this division of authority may be traced all the military difficulties with which

* Not printed.

France is at present confronted. It is high time that the situation were radically altered. A step in the right direction has been taken, says the article, by the decision to create a mobile police force under General Lyautey, assisted by a Shereefian High Commissioner, but it is most regrettable that the Government should so long have delayed sending him the necessary instructions.

I have, &c.
(Signed) REGINALD LISTER.

[17172] No. 58.

Mr. Lister to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received May 19.)

(No. 194.)

Sir, *Paris, May* 18, 1908.

A FURTHER leading article appeared in the "Temps" of last night in regard to the appointment of General Lyautey as Commissioner-General for France on the Moroccan frontier, as reported in my despatch No. 192 of yesterday's date.

As you will have observed, in the text of the official communiqué announcing this appointment it is stated that General Lyautey "dépendra, dans l'exécution de ces mesures, du Gouvernement-Général de l'Algérie et de la Légation de France à Tanger."

The "Temps" finds this phrase inexplicable, for, it says, "there is an obvious contradiction between the decision taken a week ago to appoint a High Commissionership on the Algerian-Moroccan frontier and the brief definition now given of the attributions of this High Commissioner." In writing on the subject last week the "Temps" pointed out the necessity of giving this official a free hand in the exercise of his functions, and it is regrettable that the very fault should have been committed which they had already warned the Government to avoid.

Common sense, the article continues, teaches that neither the French Legation at Tangier, which is 500 kilom. from the frontier, nor the 19th Army Corps, nor the Algerian Government, at a still further distance from the Moulouya, are in a position to exercise over the measures to be taken that immediate and absolute direction which is implied by the word "dépendance." It would be bad enough if only one of these authorities were invested with this power; that it should be confided to both of them is simply incomprehensible.

Whatever qualities he may possess, the High Commissioner should no doubt remain subject to some measure of Government control, but, since his duties are clearly defined, it would surely be sufficient that he should be under the direction of the President of the Council and the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. Beyond this he should be given a free hand, and should not be made dependent on instructions, possibly contradictory, from Tangier and Algiers.

To make matters worse, General Lyautey is at the present moment in agreement neither with M. Regnault nor with M. Jonnart. His disagreement with the latter arises from the disorganization of the Algerian forces caused by the Casa Blanca expedition. Both M. Jonnart and General Lyautey regret that colonial troops should not have been employed against the Chaouia, instead of taking men from the garrisons of Algeria, but M. Jonnart goes farther than the General, and considers that until the Algerian forces shall have been restored to their normal numbers an attitude of immobility must be observed on the frontier.

His disagreement with M. Regnault is more deep rooted inasmuch as the latter is said to have declared himself opposed to the whole of the programme elaborated by General Lyautey and approved by M. Clemenceau.

The situation is therefore as follows: M. Clemenceau has approved, in spite of the opposition of M. Regnault, supported by the Ministry of War, the proposals of General Lyautey; but when it comes to putting these proposals into effect General Lyautey is placed in "dépendance" on Algiers and Tangier. It is a singular paradox. The President of the Council realized that the Moroccan question is a national and not a colonial matter, and was prepared to act accordingly; but it is to be feared, from the communiqué above mentioned, that departmental jealousies have once more baffled the perspicacity of M. Clemenceau.

Copy of the article in question is inclosed herein.*

I have, &c.
(Signed) REGINALD LISTER.

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[17637] No. 59.

Sir G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received May 23.)

(No. 107.) *Tangier, May* 11, 1908.

Sir,

WITH reference to your despatch No. 68 of the 30th ultimo, I have the honour to state that the claims referred to by me as "country claims" consist of moneys for the purchase of country produce of all kinds, handed or advanced to Arabs who have been ruined (or in some cases killed) and who are absolutely unable to repay the moneys so received. They include losses for cattle and sheep in the hands of Arabs, part or the whole of which have been robbed, plundered, or have disappeared. Owing to the repressive measures which have been carried far into the interior against tribes who were connected with the massacres and later looted the town, merchants have been prevented from collecting these debts or even getting into communication with many of their Arab debtors since the bombardment, and numbers have never been heard of again.

These debts form an important item in some of the claims, as the late events occurred in the very middle of an abundant harvest.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

[17285] No. 60.

Sir G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received May 20.)

(No. 108.) *Tangier, May* 14, 1908.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 90 of the 21st ultimo, I have the honour to transmit herewith translation of a letter which I have received from Mulai Hafid, giving further assurances of his good intentions towards the Powers, and explaining the objects of his policy in general.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

Inclosure in No. 60.

Letter addressed by Mulai Hafid to Sir G. Lowther.

In the name of God the Compassionate, the Merciful, and there is no power nor strength save in God the High, the Mighty.

Seal of Moulai Abdel Hafid.

TO the intelligent, respected Diplomatic Envoy of the glorious English Government at Tangier, after many inquiries concerning your health, &c. In previous letters I have explained to you that since God intrusted to me the charge of ruling the Moslems, my sole object has been to regulate my subjects and to firmly establish sentiments of humanity in them and to restore order in place of the disorder which has been brought about by the rule of the person who has been deposed by the people *en masse*, because of his weakness and impotence, and who have agreed amongst themselves following the course laid down by Islamic Shraa to tender their obedience to me and to draw up the oath of allegiance to me. And since God charged me with this Shereefian duty nothing has ever happened to cause annoyance to any of the Powers, except the reports spread by my brother Mulai Abd-el-Aziz and his people who are with him in Rabat, intending thereby to bring about misunderstandings between my Shereefian Government and the Powers in general, and the French Government in particular. They have continued to do this with an audacity which makes it necessary to punish them both by Shraa and by every other law. We therefore intend to punish those presumptuous persons who are at Rabat in order that they may depart thence when the hand of our vengeance reaches those audacious men, and no harm will arrive nor any loss to anyone by the power of Allah. We send you this in advance so that there shall be no responsibility

on our Government—the Happy—after this notification shall have reached you, as necessarily at the time the punishment is being inflicted, as it is impossible to distinguish persons owing to the quickness with which things happen. We trust you may send a speedy reply. May God protect you.

Written the 17 Rabia I, 1326 (19th April, 1908).

[17286] No. 61.

Sir G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received May 20.)

(No. 109.) *Tangier, May* 14, 1908.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 86 of the 14th ultimo, I have the honour to inclose copy of a note addressed to the doyen of the Diplomatic Body here by the Makhzen, inclosing copy of the Shereefian Decree which has been issued for the convocation of the International Commission to examine into and decide upon the claims arising out of the events of Casa Blanca of last August. The date for the meeting of the Commission is the 31st May.

The wish is expressed that no foreign Consuls acting at Casa Blanca should form part of the Commission, and that the Powers interested should name a Sub-Commission to make preparatory studies which would facilitate the work of the Commission. Apart from a few insignificant verbal alterations, the text of the Decree and the draft Decree which was inclosed in my above-mentioned despatch are identical.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

Inclosure 1 in No. 61.

Abdelkrim-ben-Sliman to Doyen of the Diplomatic Body.

(Traduction.)

Louange à Dieu seul !

(Compliments.) *Le* 23 *Rabih I*, 1326 (25 *Avril*, 1908).

ENSUITE le Gouvernement Chérifien s'était déjà entendu avec les Ambassadeurs de France et d'Espagne exaltés lors de leur séjour près de Sa Majesté Chérifienne à Rabat pour la nomination d'une Commission Internationale, qui se réunirait à Casa Blanca à l'effet d'examiner les réclamations qui leur seraient soumises de la part des sujets du Makhzen et des sujets étrangers en ce qui concerne les préjudices qui auraient atteint leurs biens mobiliers et immobiliers par suite du soulèvement survenu là-bas, et d'examiner ce qui devrait être accepté et ce qui devrait être rejeté, de régler celles de ces réclamations qui auraient été admises, et d'indiquer le montant de l'indemnité à laquelle auront droit les intéressés, dont les réclamations auront été acceptées. En sorte que la dite Commission ait pleins pouvoirs pour régler toutes ces réclamations, et afin que ses décisions soient définitives en vertu du Décret Chérifien que vous recevez ci-joint, et indiquant comment sera organisée la dite Commission et comment elle fonctionnera, notre Seigneur (que Dieu le fortifie !) m'a autorisé d'écrire ce qui précède, et de vous envoyer le Décret Chérifien afin que vous le communiquiez à leurs Excellences les Représentants des Puissances respectées et de solliciter leurs concours pour instituer la dite Commission dans les conditions prévues par le Décret Chérifien, et Sa Majesté vous prie également de ne nommer dans cette Commission aucun des Consuls en fonctions à Casa Blanca. Elle espère également que les Puissances intéressées désigneront une Sous-Commission composée de ses nationaux pour s'occuper des travaux préparatoires afin de faciliter leurs opérations aux membres de la Commission principale. Ces Sous-Commissions devront être l'objet de la plus grande considération.

Compliments.

(Signé) ABDELKRIM-BEN-SLIMAN.

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Inclosure 2 in No. 61.

Chereefian Decree for the Convocation of an International Commission to decide Claims arising out of Events at Casa Blanca.

(Traduction.)

Louange à Dieu seul!

(Sceau apposé disant: Abdelasis Ben-el-Hassan, Dieu son maître et sa force.)

PAR la présente que Dieu l'élève et l'assiste, et fasse monter dans le ciel de la félicité son soleil éclatant et sa pleine lune. Que l'on sache qu'avec l'aide et la puissance de Dieu, par sa grâce et sa faveur, nous avons autorisé l'institution d'une Commission Internationale exclusivement compétente à l'effet de recevoir et d'examiner les réclamations des sujets indigènes et des étrangers à raison des dommages causés à la propriété mobilière et immobilière par les actes insurrectionnels qui ont été commis à Casa Blanca depuis le 30 Juillet, 1907, et par l'action répressive qui a suivi. Cette Commission se réunira le 31 Mai à Casa Blanca. Elle sera composée comme suit: trois membres désignés par le Gouvernement Chérifien, qui nommera parmi eux le Président; un membre désigné par chacun des Gouvernements d'Allemagne, d'Espagne, de France, de Grande-Bretagne, d'Italie, et de Portugal, c'est-à-dire, en tout neuf membres.

Le cas échéant, tout autre pays pourra désigner un agent de sa Légation, qui participera à l'examen et au règlement des réclamations de ses nationaux. La Commission aura tous pouvoirs pour procéder à l'instruction des demandes qui lui seront présentées. Elle statuera souverainement sur chacune d'elles, soit en la rejetant, soit en y faisant droit par la fixation d'une indemnité. Toutefois ne donneront droit à une indemnité que les dommages directs. Elle prendra toute décision à la majorité absolue des voix, et le Président, en cas de partage, aura voix prépondérante. Elle sera valablement constituée, même en l'absence d'un ou de plusieurs Délégués. Mais si une demande était appelée en l'absence du Délégué de la nation à laquelle appartiendrait le réclamant, le Délégué serait averti, sans que son absence pût retarder de plus d'une semaine l'examen de l'affaire. La Commission pourra désigner un ou plusieurs Vice-Présidents, ainsi qu'un ou plusieurs Secrétaires, dont l'un au moins sera indigène, et s'adjoindre dans ses travaux à titre consultatif, les interprètes, experts, et, généralement, toutes les personnes dont le concours lui paraîtra utile. Les crédits nécessaires lui seront ouverts à la Banque d'État, sur sa demande, par le Gouvernement Marocain. Il sera ultérieurement pourvu à la fixation de l'époque et aux voies et moyens de paiement des indemnités accordées par la Commission.

Salut!

Notre Ordre Chérifien est donné le 25 Rabih I, 1326 (27 Avril, 1908).

[17627] No. 62.

Sir M. de Bunsen to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received May* 22.)

(No. 16.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Madrid, May* 22, 1908.

FEELINGS of hostility towards the French have again been aroused at Madrid as a result of the collision which recently occurred between French and Spanish native troops at Casa Blanca. Señor Allendesalazar, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, has alluded very sensibly to the incident in the Cortes. He pointed out that full information had not yet come to hand, and begged that no hasty judgments should be formed. On the other hand, his Excellency has complained to me that the French officers and men frequently behave in a very irritating way, and King Alfonso referred to the subject at great length in conversation with me this morning. The reported refusal of the French authorities to punish the guilty parties, and their general attitude, which is regarded here as provoking, have greatly angered His Majesty, who even said that he would withdraw the Spanish troops unless matters changed for the better. I expressed the opinion that the French would surely agree to a full inquiry being made, and said that I knew that my French colleague was desirous that the incident should be amicably arranged. I deprecated any hasty action being taken in the meanwhile, which might result in great harm.

I have also seen M. Révoil, who tells me that detailed information has not yet reached him. As was to be expected, his version of what occurred differs from the Spanish. He accuses the Spanish troops of behaving in an unruly way, and complains that, even when they are not on duty, they walk about fully armed. According to his information, a friendly conference is taking place between the French and Spanish Representatives at Casa Blanca, who are endeavouring to arrive at a settlement of the points in dispute.

I should add, for your confidential information, that the Ambassador seems now disposed to think that the Pretender is getting the upper hand, and that the time is approaching when the French Government will have to consider the advisability of arriving at some understanding with him. This is the first time that I have found his Excellency inclined to this view.

[17639] No. 63.

Sir G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received May* 23.)

(No. 110.)
Sir, *Tangier, May* 15, 1908.

WITH reference to my despatches No. 85 of the 13th April and No. 102 of the 8th instant, I have the honour to state that having, after some conversations with the French Chargé d'Affaires on the subject of the German proposal for a modified scheme of the drainage works, ascertained that he was prepared to support me in obtaining the insertion of a declaration that this should not form a precedent, and that all future works in all the ports of Morocco should be submitted to adjudication, but that he was not prepared to insist on a control of the works by the State engineers if such insistence was likely to endanger the adoption of the scheme, I went to see Dr. Rosen and impressed upon him the views of His Majesty's Government on the subject, telling him that I should not give support to his scheme unless these two points were made quite clear. With regard to all future harbour works being dealt with in accordance with the Algeciras Act, Dr. Rosen made no difficulties, and he immediately agreed to the following formula, which I proposed to him, and which was eventually adopted by the Sanitary Council:—

"Il est entendu que l'adoption de ce projet ne constitue pas un précédent et que le principe de la liberté économique pour l'industrie publique et le principe de l'adjudication établis par l'Acte d'Algésiras seront appliqués sans exception à l'avenir dans tous les ports du Maroc sauf pour les travaux déjà autorisés et dont il est question dans le procès-verbal de la dix-huitième séance de la Conférence d'Algésiras."

On the question of control by the State engineers Dr. Rosen made more difficulties. He declared that an important Company, such as Philip Holzmann and Co., who intended to carry out these works, could not submit to the control of the State engineer, a French gentleman, who until recently had occupied a very subordinate position, that even if owing to his nationality he had no *parti pris*, he would most certainly have views of his own on the subject, as any technical person would, and that this would inevitably delay the carrying out of the scheme, and the German engineers who were here in connection with the port works could delay their departure no longer. I reminded Dr. Rosen that as Sanitary Council we were an Administration of the Moorish Government, and must look to their interests as well as to those of any foreign firm, and in all works such as the present some measure of control was indispensable.

Dr. Rosen eventually agreed to the following formula regarding control:—

"Les ingénieurs de l'État seront chargés d'examiner et d'en rendre compte au Conseil Sanitaire si le projet est en harmonie avec les nécessités ultérieures de la canalisation projetée de Tanger. L'ouvrage une fois terminé, le Gouvernement Marocain fera constater par les ingénieurs la solidité et la conformité aux plans de la construction avant l'acceptation définitive,"

and this was proposed by him at the meeting, and accepted. I am fully aware that in this form the control is not very complete, but the State engineers will no doubt not lose sight of the works while they are in progress, and it is to be hoped that

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Holzmann and Co. will, for their own reputation, produce a work which will be of benefit to the town and worthy of their name.

At the meeting of the Sanitary Council yesterday there was no opposition whatever to the German Minister's scheme.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

[17642] No. 64.

Mr. Lister to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received May 23.)

(No. 200.)
Sir, *Paris, May 21, 1908.*

WHEN I saw the Political Director of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs this afternoon, he alluded to the promise given me by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, as reported in my despatch No. 185 of the 11th May, to let me have a note giving me the exact facts with regard to the harbour works at Laraiche. That promise, M. Louis said, had not been forgotten, but up to the present moment the whole matter seemed to be in suspense.

The facts, to the best of his belief, were the following: Before the Conference of Algeciras a Concession had been granted by the Maghzen to a German firm for the execution of certain harbour works at Laraiche. No estimate had been drawn up and no contract signed; it was, moreover, evident that the Maghzen had nothing like the funds at their disposal necessary to meet expenditure such as that contemplated, and the idea of a loan at this moment was out of the question. The matter consequently had appeared for the moment to be hung up. Recently he understood that the German firm had decided to approach various French houses with a view to obtaining funds from them, or of securing by their co-operation an additional guarantee that the money would eventually be forthcoming. He was not certain whether the French houses had actually received the offers made by the German firm, but they were at all events announced ("annoncées").

He promised, as soon as he received any further information on the subject, to communicate to me without loss of time.

I have, &c.
(Signed) REGINALD LISTER.

[17756] No. 65.

Sir G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received May 24.)

(No. 25.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, May 24, 1908.*

WITH reference to Sir M. de Bunsen's telegram No. 16 to the Foreign Office of the 22nd instant, I have the honour to report that two such incidents have occurred at Casa Blanca. A full report of the second of these has not yet reached M. Regnault, but in the first case an amicable settlement was arrived at. That armed Riffians should be present among the Spanish regulars constitutes, in the opinion of the French Minister, a great danger, as also that the Spanish authorities should allow their troops to enter the town fully armed, although their zone lies outside. The delimitation of zones has, however, still to be accepted by Spain. No importance is attached by M. Regnault to these quarrels, which he regards as unavoidable, taking into consideration the close proximity of rival troops, nor, apparently, are they treated very seriously by M. Merry del Val.

[18583] No. 66.

Sir G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received May 30.)

(No. 113.)
Sir, *Tangier, May 18, 1908.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from His Majesty's Consul at Casa Blanca, reporting an affray which

occurred at Casa Blanca between the Spanish Riff police and the French Zouaves. It is to be feared that some tension exists between the French and Spanish authorities in that port.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

Inclosure in No. 66.

Consul Madden to Sir G. Lowther.

(No. 152.)
Sir, *Casa Blanca, May 13, 1908.*

A FRACAS occurred yesterday afternoon between several of the armed Spanish Riff police doing duty in the Spanish zone outside the walls on one of the roads abutting on the Marrakesch Gate of Casa Blanca, and the French Zouave guard posted inside this gate.

It appears that in one of the many low-class drink shops of doubtful reputation which have unfortunately sprung up within the last few months outside the Marrakesch Gate, a quarrel occurred between a woman and a French Mahommedan tirailleur. The Riff police intervened and knocked the tirailleur about.

On hearing a disturbance, the Zouave guard of about fourteen men inside the Marrakesch Gate turned out, and entered the Spanish zone.

Shots were exchanged, resulting in the instant death of a Riff policeman, who received four balls. A French Zouave was slightly wounded in the arm, and a Spanish sergeant, who was standing near the Zouaves and tried to stop the row, was wounded too. Shots were, it is said, fired by the French from the top of the Marrakesch Gate, and a Spanish sentry on duty at the Spanish military camp received a shot in his boot, but fortunately was otherwise uninjured.

The Spanish Consul, who happened to be out walking at the time in the vicinity of the Spanish camp, tells me he was first made acquainted with the fact that there was something amiss by hearing bullets whistling over his head. He complains very strongly of the French forcibly invading the Spanish zone as they did, instead of leaving any specific act of the Spanish police in their own jurisdiction to be dealt with in the usual way.

I asked the Spanish Consul if he could tell me who fired the first shot, and he replied, that although the official inquiry is not yet concluded, he believes that the Riffians, startled by the French guard rushing out, fired first. I must say that the Riffian police, whom I have frequently seen on duty, always appeared to me to be the reverse of quarrelsome.

For the present, the Riffians have been confined to barracks, and police duty in the Spanish "secteur" is being performed by armed Spanish regulars.

The French Consul, who was calling on me shortly after the incident occurred, spoke very bitterly against the Spanish system of putting on armed Riff Moors to police the roads, especially as no danger whatever to life or property exists now outside the town. He declared that these Riff Moors hate the French, whom they look upon as invaders of their country, and he feared that there would some day be very serious trouble between the two.

This evening further disturbances occurred. As the Spanish police force of Moors now being raised under the Act of Algeciras were returning from their instruction drill outside the town, and were entering the Marrakesch Gate, five of them were set upon with sticks by French soldiers, two receiving serious injuries. This second incident has caused considerable annoyance in Spanish official circles, where it is alleged that the French soldiers are out of control.

The Spanish have doubtless a delicate position here, and I fear their relations with the French are nearly always very strained.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. M. MADDEN.

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[17896] No. 67.

Sir G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received May* 25.)

(No. 114.)

Sir, *Tangier, May* 18, 1908.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 109 of the 14th instant, transmitting the invitation of the Makhzen to the meeting of the International Claims Commission at Casa Blanca, I have the honour to transmit a copy of a letter which has now been addressed by the French Chargé d'Affaires to the doyen of the Diplomatic Body. This letter incloses a fresh note addressed by the Minister for Foreign Affairs to the doyen, which, in substance, is the same as the previous note, with the exception of the last paragraph, in which the wish is expressed that the Commission should take into consideration the work which has already been done by the Sub-Commissions in the matter of the examination of claims.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

Inclosure 1 in No. 67.

Le Comte de Saint-Aulaire to the Doyen of the Diplomatic Body.

M. le Comte, *Tanger, le* 17 *Mai*, 1908.

LE dernier paragraphe de la récente communication du Makhzen relative à la constitution de la Commission Internationale des Indemnités de Casablanca n'ayant pas répondu de tous points aux engagements qui avaient été pris à Rabat vis-à-vis de nos deux Gouvernements, nous n'avons pas manqué d'appeler l'attention du Makhzen sur ce point. Si Abdelkrim Ben Sliman vient de nous adresser à ce sujet la lettre ci-jointe, destinée à remplacer sa lettre précédente, qu'il prie de remettre à votre Excellence, et qui précise, *in fine*, "que la Commission Internationale prendra en sérieuse considération les travaux des Commissions Nationales instituées pour examiner les dommages subis par leurs compatriotes."

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) SAINT-AULAIRE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 67.

Abdelkrim Ben Sliman to the Doyen of the Diplomatic Body.

(Compliments.)

A L'OCCASION du séjour des Ministres de France et d'Espagne à la Cour Chérifienne à Rabat il a été décidé, d'accord avec le Makhzen, de nommer une Commission Internationale à Casablanca pour étudier les réclamations des sujets Marocains et étrangers concernant les pertes souffertes (meubles et immeubles) à la suite de l'insurrection, de vérifier celles qui doivent être acceptées ou refusées, et déterminer les montants des indemnités à payer à ceux dont les réclamations ont été acceptées. La dite Commission aura pleins pouvoirs pour régler toutes ces réclamations, et sa décision sera finale, et cela d'après le Firman Chérifien qui accompagne cette lettre et qui établit la manière de la formation de cette Commission ainsi que la façon de prendre ses décisions.

Sa Majesté m'ordonne de vous écrire ce qui précède et de vous faire parvenir le Firman Chérifien pour que vous veuillez bien en donner connaissance à MM. les Représentants étrangers, et les prier de coopérer à la formation de cette Commission ainsi qu'il est stipulé dans le Firman Chérifien.

Sa Majesté vous prie de ne pas nommer pour former part de cette Commission de Consuls résidant à Casablanca, et aussi à ce que cette Commission Internationale prenne en considération les travaux faits par des groupes nationaux locaux, qui ont été formés pour examiner les préjudices causés à leurs concitoyens.

(Signé) ABDELKRIM BEN SLIMAN.

Le 23 *Rabih* I, 1326 (*le* 25 *Avril*, 1908).

[17897] No. 68.

Sir G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received May* 25.)

(No. 115.)

Sir, *Tangier, May* 19, 1908.

THE arrival of Mulai Hafid at Mequinez, so often announced and as often contradicted, has now become a fact, as authentic news of his arrival there on Friday last has reached here. In a few days he will move on to Fez, and his installation there will inevitably have an excellent effect on his supporters and as depressing a one on the few who still remain attached to the cause of Abdul Aziz in the country.

Bushta Bagdadi's army, said to consist of 4,000 men, has come to a standstill at a place called Meshrat-el-Remla, about 40 kilom. inland from Mehedia. They have not been attacked, but the tribes not only refuse to allow them to pass but decline to provide food in spite of money being forthcoming. There can be but little doubt that these two facts constitute a very severe blow to the already shattered prestige of the Sultan, and present a crisis which will be difficult for His Majesty to overcome. The immediate results will doubtless be that many who until now have refrained from declaring themselves will now take courage and throw in their lot openly with the vast majority of their countrymen in favour of Mulai Hafid. The ports being all in the hands of the Sultan, and Mulai Hafid being no doubt at present unwilling, and perhaps unable, to raise any large sums in the interior, it becomes essential for him to obtain possession of one at least of these ports. Any attempts at raising an army, destitute as he appears to be of any capital, would no doubt redound to his unpopularity and discredit, and he is consequently more likely to endeavour to attain possession of the ports by other than violent means. In the meantime the present situation is likely to remain for a time unchanged, viz., Sultan Abdul Aziz, Sultan of the ports, and his brother Mulai Hafid, for the Moors, Sultan of Marakesh, Fez, and Mequinez.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

[17792] No. 69.

Sir F. Lascelles to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received May* 25.)

(No. 234.)

Sir, *Berlin, May* 18, 1908.

AS I had the honour to report in my despatch No. 223 of the 14th instant, the Morocco Society are doing their utmost to exploit the visit of Muley Hafid's Envoys in order to stir up public opinion in favour of a more active policy in Morocco.

On Saturday last a combined meeting of the Morocco Society and the Pan-German League took place here for this purpose under the presidency of Count Pfeil, Chairman of the Morocco Society.

In opening the meeting, Count Pfeil observed that it was necessary to attract the attention of the public afresh to Morocco, since the situation in that country had entered on a new phase. The person who must be considered the *de facto* if not the *de jure* Ruler of the country had sent his Representatives to Berlin to lay his request before the German Monarch and the German people. Thus the question arises for Germany whether she is going to remain neutral or to take action in the matter. Count Pfeil maintained that so soon as Muley Hafid had established himself in Fez there could be no doubt that he, and not Abdul Aziz, was the true Sovereign of Morocco, and accordingly called upon the Government to accord their support to him, since he had promised through his Envoys to recognize all the Treaties concluded by his predecessor, and bound himself to give his energetic support to all schemes to exploit the commercial possibilities of the country.

Count Pfeil was followed by the Pan-German Count Reventlow, who delivered a lecture on "Germany and Morocco." This was followed by a discussion which was opened by the Socialist Edward Bernstein, who deplored the Chauvinistic sentiments uttered by the previous speakers. These words resulted in a tumult, during which the speakers were unable to make themselves audible.

It will be within your recollection that Herr von Schön informed M. Cambon that he feared to be attacked in the press unless he could show that he had protected German

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interests in Morocco, and that he had therefore decided that a reception of some sort should be accorded to the Envoys on that ground.

It is clear that those in favour of a forward policy in Morocco intend to put their money on Muley Hafid and do their utmost to urge the Government to support him. They imagine that if Germany is the first Power to recognize the new Sultan he will in future trust to Germany to assist him to maintain his throne, and that consequently his rule will be more favourable to Germans than that of his brother, and there is therefore little doubt but that Herr von Schön was correct in stating that he would have been the object of attack had he taken no notice of the Envoys. Still, it must be remembered that the Morocco Society, though it numbers persons of some importance among its members, is not a very influential body. The Pan-German League is perhaps a greater force to be reckoned with, but Pan-Germanism has many more irons in the fire than Morocco. The most satisfactory sign, however, is that the Envoys themselves were not present at the meeting, although Count Pfeil and his friends had advertised the fact that they hoped to induce them to be present, and it is also a matter of congratulation that the meeting ended in a dispute.

The Envoys are still in Berlin, but they have expressed their intention to leave shortly. It is much to be hoped that they will adhere to this resolution.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

[17793] No. 70.

Sir F. Lascelles to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received May* 25.)

(No. 235.) *Berlin, May* 21, 1908.

Sir,

THE progress of affairs in Morocco and the recent incidents which occurred between Spanish and French troops in the country are being followed in the German press here with great interest, and the "Kölnische Zeitung" in particular, as interesting itself especially in African and colonial affairs, has during the past few days been conducting a wild campaign of polemic against the "Temps," and has been harrowing its readers with blood-curdling accounts of the real state of things in Morocco.

General d'Amade's report with regard to the treatment of a German-protected subject occupies some space in the Cologne journal's columns; the accuracy of the statements made in this report is denied, and the French treatment of the man is condemned in the strongest terms. The case, to which I made reference in my despatch No. 216 of the 8th instant, is cited merely as one among a number of other similar incidents, all of which are considered indicative of the anti-German prejudice of the French commanders.

Next to the all-important subject of the protection of German interests, the paper is full of telegrams from Tangier, giving most serious accounts of the condition of affairs at Casa Blanca, and of the "far from harmless character of the incident between the French and Spanish troops" in that city. Indeed, it is said to have set the whole town in a great commotion. It began by an attack on a native Spanish sentry by a French "tirailleur," who was, however, disabled, and subsequently supported by about twenty more of his comrades, who got quite of control, shot several Spaniards, and became a source of some danger to any passers-by. The French are accused of refusing to allow Spanish messages giving an account of the affair to be sent through their wireless telegraphy apparatus, and a vivid picture is given of the "cantine"-plundering, maltreatment of men, women, and girls by the French soldiery, of their drunkenness, and of the entire indifference of their superior officers with regard to their behaviour.

Commenting on all this information, the "Kölnische Zeitung" publishes an angry and sarcastic article in its issue of yesterday, openly accusing the French of encouraging and making use of the unrest in Morocco in order to further their aims of conquest and encroachment. It is high time that Germany should watch French intrigues, for French action in Morocco is largely based on anti-German sentiment. Every day the "Temps'" pages are filled with unfriendly insinuations, and the present French action in the east of the country is made out to be necessitated solely by the fact that the Emperor's visit to Tangier has created an anti-French feeling in those regions, and caused the natives to look to Germany for assistance against French interference.

People may say, the Cologne paper continues, that such newspaper remarks are without influence on the Government policy. On the contrary, it is neither the Chamber nor the Government who make French policy in Morocco, but on the one hand it is the Morocco party in Europe, an association of commercial men and politicians, who have the press at their command, and on the other the Generals and officers on the spot, who, in combination with this party, desire to carry on and extend the campaign to the utmost degree, and place their Government face to face with a *fait accompli* which will make all retreat impossible. The time for such a policy is propitious at the present moment; the Chamber has long pauses between its Sessions, and therefore there is less opportunity than usual for Jaurès to expose the truth or for Ribot to give vent to his hesitation and disapproval. So every use is being made of the oracular utterances of Mahommedan fanatics, of rumoured attacks by natives, and any other such imagined signs of unrest, in order to justify some fresh advance of Vigny or of d'Amade. The French conscience is not quite clear even thus, and so they have to resort to the well-worn magic word "patriotism," which has before now covered under its mantle many a doubtful business transaction.

Thus have events progressed; hardly are the Beni Snassen quitted from Udjda than we are told there is a holy war afoot. South Oran is the scene of new activity, and garrisons are increased at Algiers, Oran, and other places, and the country from the Upper Gir to Atlas, Ain Schehr, and other districts are occupied by General Lyautey. Three months ago came rumours of a "Harka" (gathering) of some 4,000 armed tribesmen near Colomb Beschar, yet a caravan was able to pass peacefully through the country without molestation, even from robber bands. But there was to be no repose; a sentry is shot in once place, a robber band appears in another, and at once the public is made to believe there is a fresh uprising, or that a new "Harka" has been discovered. So it goes on. This year it is intended to occupy the Upper Muluja Valley; next year Tesa will be the goal. Thus is Morocco being methodically annexed from the eastern frontier in the name of the Act of Algeciras.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

[18025] No. 71.

Sir M. de Bunsen to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received May* 25.)

(No. 17.) *Madrid, May* 25, 1908.
(Telegraphic.) P.

MY telegram No. 16 of the 22nd May. Incident at Casa Blanca.

I am informed by Señor Allendesalazar that he has tried to the best of his ability to calm the strong feeling existing in the Spanish army on account of the late incident at Casa Blanca between the Spanish and French soldiers. The irritation felt is shared by His Majesty King Alfonso. Although the events causing this state of feeling are in themselves of small importance, should they occur again it will not be easy to withstand the desire which is increasing for the withdrawal of the Spanish troops.

Señor Allendesalazar trusts that an opportunity may be taken during the visit of M. Fallierès to London to endeavour to persuade the Government of the Republic to take steps which will result in the establishment of a more satisfactory understanding between the Spanish and French contingents.

I understand that Señor de Villa Urrutia will receive instructions to discuss the matter with you.

[18031] No. 72.

Sir F. Bertie to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received May* 26.)

(No. 202.) *Paris, May* 22, 1908.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you herewith a Memorandum by Mr. Lister, reporting the substance of a conversation which he had yesterday with M. Louis at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, relative to the position of Abd-el-Aziz in Morocco.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS BERTIE.

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Inclosure in No. 72.

Memorandum by Mr. Lister.

WHEN I saw M. Louis yesterday, I asked him what he thought of the news from Morocco. He said that no confirmation had as yet been received of the rumour that the army under Bagdadi had been surrounded and was at the mercy of the troops of Mulay Hafid. It would, he said, if true, make a bad impression; at the same time the French Government had never placed much reliance on that force. When on a previous occasion Bagdadi had collected a mehallah, he had taken three weeks to cover a distance which French troops marched easily in three days, and on his eventual arrival at his destination he was practically alone.

So far all seemed quiet at the ports, but no doubt there would be considerable excitement whenever the news reached them that Mulay Hafid had actually entered Fez. The arrangements for the police force, however, were progressing favourably, and the reports received on the subject were satisfactory.

There was no doubt, he said, that the French Government had a "very bad horse" in Abd-el-Aziz, but the curious thing was that Mulay Hafid was almost as devoid as his brother of the warlike qualities necessary to make a successful Sultan in Morocco. He was a scholar and a theologian, and they had always hoped that Abd-el-Aziz, with the backing of France, would be able to hold his own against him. Unfortunately the former had now turned out to be a worse horse even than they had anticipated. At the same time, M. Louis said, he thought it was a mistake to be over-nervous. The policy of France would continue the same, whoever the Sultan, and there should be no weakening in her determination to see the various Conventions and Arrangements enforced. Sir Edward Grey's answer in the House of Commons that it was impossible to recognize two Sultans at the same time had delighted him and appeared to sum up the situation exactly.

[18155] No. 73.

Sir G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received May* 26.)

(No. 26.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, May* 26, 1908.

MENEBHI has received a visit from M. Regnault, who questioned him regarding the present state of affairs. The cause of Abdul Aziz is, in the opinion of Menebhi, practically hopeless, and he advises the French to arrive at an understanding with the Pretender lest Germany should obtain a predominating influence with him.

Menebhi thinks that reasonable terms would be accepted by Mulai Hafid, as the latter is not very sure of his position. Upon being asked by M. Regnault, subject to approval of his Government, whether he would act as mediator, Menebhi declined, but agreed to transmit to the Pretender's Grand Vizier any terms which the French Government might desire to submit to him.

[18174] No. 74.

Sir G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received May* 27.)

(No. 117. Confidential.)
Tangier, May 20, 1908.

Sir,

M. REGNAULT returned to his post to-day and was met on his arrival with confirmation of the news, somewhat discouraging to the cause of the Sultan, that his brother had entered Mequinez. In conversation with me, M. Regnault admitted that the blow was a serious one to the cause of Mulai Abdul Aziz, and that news of the entry of Mulai Hafid into Fez must follow shortly. This he feared would produce considerable effect in Europe, but in his opinion it did not materially advance the cause of the rebel brother, for the ports remained, and would probably continue to remain in the hands of the Sultan.

I said that what had appeared to many as the turning point in the fortunes of Mulai Hafid was that he had been allowed to pass the front of the French troops in or near the Shawia district, and this might leave on the Moors in general the idea that the French had feared a conflict. M. Regnault admitted this, and told me confidentially

that he had urged his Government to take measures to prevent this and to allow Mulai Hafid to be attacked, but his Government had discarded his advice on the plea that it was essential to preserve an attitude of complete neutrality.

Talking of the rumours that are abroad that the army of Bushta Bagdadi, said to number some 7,000, had gone over to Mulai Hafid, M. Regnault said that he had no confirmation of this, but the great mistake that had been made in Europe was to imagine that these armies were of the slightest value as fighting forces. The only way for Sultan Abdul Aziz to gain ground was through the employment of money to negotiate with the tribes, and he implied that the French Government had not been sufficiently generous in this respect. The armies might be a useful adjunct for the *mise en scène*, but it could never be expected that the armies either of Abdul Aziz or Mulai Hafid should come to blows.

M. Regnault hoped that when Mulai Hafid was installed at Fez, he would have so many claims upon him for financial assistance which he would be unable to gratify that his popularity would soon wane. He did not believe that, with the exception of El Glawi, any of the advisers of Mulai Hafid were more active, more honest, or more intelligent than the advisers of the present Sultan, and indeed El Glawi, he believed, had joined the cause as a speculation, as he was indebted to a Jew of Marakesh for the sum of about 800,000 fr. which he had no means of settling.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

[18405] No. 75.

Sir M. de Bunsen to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received May* 28.)

(No. 18.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Madrid, May* 28, 1908.

IN continuation of my telegram No. 17 of the 25th instant, respecting the incidents at Casa Blanca, I have to state that I have now been informed by my French colleague that the Ministry of State have addressed a note to him, according to which instructions have been issued to the Officer Commanding the Spanish troops at Casa Blanca to endeavour to prevent the recurrence of friction, and to use his best efforts to that end. M. Révoil is now in receipt of reports which, he tells me, make it evident that the accounts of what occurred at Casa Blanca, which caused so much excitement in the mind of King Alfonso and in military circles here, were of a highly exaggerated nature. Though strong pressure was put upon the Minister for Foreign Affairs to withdraw the Spanish contingent, his Excellency did all he could to show the matter in its true light, and M. Révoil states that he is satisfied with his attitude.

[18585] No. 76.

Sir G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received May* 30.)

(No. 118.)
Tangier, May 21, 1908.

Sir,

ALTHOUGH no official intimation has reached me to that effect, it is a fact that Ci Fedool Gharnit, the Grand Vizier, now over 80 years of age, has been retired in favour of Cid Abdelkrim Ben Sliman, the Foreign Minister. This change was advised by the French Minister when he went to Rabat last autumn, but it was considered undesirable that it should have the appearance of being made on the advice of M. Regnault.

It is not of special importance, except in so far that Ben Sliman is now regarded as fully imbued with French ideas, as, indeed, all the Ministers still attached to the person of the Sovereign are credited with being.

Abdelkrim Ben Sliman will, I understand, be succeeded by Cid Eddris-el-Boukili, his former Under-Secretary, a gentleman who, while possessing some experience of diplomatic affairs, is so little endowed with personal fortune as to be impelled to make his political attitude dependent upon the course which will furnish him with a means of livelihood.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

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[18587] No. 77.

Sir G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received May 30.)

(No. 120.)
Tangier, May 23, 1908.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a summary of events which is based on news received during the past week.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

Inclosure in No. 77.

Summary of Events for the week ending May 23, 1908.

THE principal event to be recorded during the past week is the arrival of Mulai Hafid at Mequinez, which, after being for some time expected, took place on the 16th instant. No precise details have as yet been received in regard to this event, but the Pretender appears to have been accompanied by a large body of the Berber tribesmen, through whose lands he had passed. His regular troops, however, numbered only some few hundred. That Mulai Hafid should have been able to traverse these wild districts without having recourse to either force or bribes is significant evidence of the enthusiasm with which his cause has been embraced by the tribes, and must go far to convince those who have not already thrown in their lot with him that it is high time to do so.

Ominous rumours continue to be received in regard to the alleged intention of Bushta Bagdadi to go over to the enemy with his army. He is at present entrenched at Meshraa Remla, a place about a quarter of the distance from Rabat to Fez, where he is reported to be surrounded by the Zemoor and Beni Hassen tribes, who threaten the army with annihilation if they do not at once embrace the cause of the Pretender. It appears that the Shereefs of Wazzan have been very active in rousing the hostility of the tribes against the Sultan's army.

With regard to the attitude of the Southern Kaïds, it would seem that Kaïds 'Mtoogi and Demnat are now strongly in favour of the Sultan, while Kaïd Gundafi, who has mobilized a large force at Ansmiz, is reported to be hostile to the Pretender. Morocco city is staunchly Hafidist, and the Governor, Ci Thami-el-Glawi, is making active preparations to defend the city against attack by the forces of the Sultan. Mr. Vice-Consul Hunot reports that there is no need for anxiety regarding the safety of the port of Saffi. The Arabs are busy harvesting, and there is no prospect of immediate trouble from the tribes, several of whom have offered their support to the Khalifa of the town in case of need. It appears that some 500 troops were landed at Saffi shortly after it was regained for the Sultan, as it was feared that an attempt might be made to retake it by the tribes. A reinforcement of 300 troops has been sent to Mogador under the command of Mulai Bubkur, uncle of the Sultan. Fighting has taken place in the neighbourhood of that port between the remnants of Mulai Hafid's mehalla and Kaïd Anfluz's forces. The chief point of interest in this fighting is that Kaïd 'Mtoogi's men allied themselves with the Hafidists, although their Chief has lately been loud in his protestations of loyalty towards the Sultan.

Mr. Madden learns that arrangements are in progress for the Sultan's troops at Mazagan to proceed to retake Azemour from the Hafidists.

Further fighting took place on the 16th instant between the French and the Emdakra tribe, which is reported to have been of a serious nature. The French losses amounted to three killed and forty wounded, while the Arabs are stated to have suffered heavily. The encounter took place in the woods near the River Wad-el-Atoch. A rumour is current at Casa Blanca that 3,000 more troops are to be sent as a reinforcement for General D'Amade.

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[18815] No. 78.

Sir M. de Bunsen to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 1.)

(No. 78.)
Madrid, May 23, 1908.

Sir,

IN my telegram No. 16 of the 22nd May I mentioned that considerable excitement has been aroused in Spain by the reports received from Casa Blanca of friction, amounting to armed conflict, between soldiers belonging to the native French and Spanish contingents.

According to the Spanish newspapers, the first collision occurred on the 12th or 13th May, when some Riff soldiers, in a police capacity, arrested an Algerian for some undefined offence and handed him over to the French sergeant on guard at the Marakesh gate of Casa Blanca. The Algerian was promptly released, and, supported by French troops, opened fire on the Riffs, one of whom was killed outright, and two others mortally wounded.

A few days later a conflict is said to have taken place between a body of native police marching through part of the town under its Spanish officers and a group of French Algerian troops, who first insulted and then attacked them without any provocation whatever.

In both cases the French are depicted as the aggressors, and they are accused of treating the Spaniards with contempt and refusing to give any kind of satisfaction for the injury inflicted on the latter by the undisciplined Algerians.

In reply to a question in the Senate on the 18th May the Minister for Foreign Affairs merely said that he was not yet fully informed of the facts, and hoped no hasty judgments would be formed. On the 20th, by which time more detailed accounts had appeared in the press, he was invited by Señor Moreu to declare when the Spanish troops would be withdrawn from a duty so distasteful to them, and so humiliating to the national pride, as was that of being employed as a police force, subject to the exigencies of the French army of occupation, and exposed to every kind of annoyance and even outrage at the hands of the latter.

Señor Allendesalazar once more assured the Senate, in reply, that Spain was in no respect exceeding the mandate which she received at Algeciras. She was co-operating with the French in policing the Morocco coast towns. In Tetuan the entire stipulated force of 275 men under Spanish officers was already recruited, drilled, and actively performing police duties. In Tangier 90 out of the desired total of 250, apart from the contingent of 500 which was to be officered by the French, and in Larache 80 out of 175 were in the same position. At Casa Blanca circumstances had prevented similar progress being made, and though a small force of native police was already undergoing instruction within the Spanish "secteur" just outside the town, it was still the contingent of Spanish troops that performed the duty of policing the extra-urban district of Casa Blanca.

These troops had nothing to do with the French army, which was engaged in exacting punishment for the outrages committed in July last on French workmen employed on the harbour works and in pacifying the region lying behind Casa Blanca.

The Spanish Government desired the withdrawal of the Spanish contingent as soon as possible, but no date could yet be given, and the Senate must trust to the Government to continue acting as circumstances might require, and with due regard to its international obligations and to the national honour.

Yesterday the Duke of Mandas, ex-Spanish Ambassador in London, again raised the question. He hoped the Powers represented at Algeciras would be consulted before any withdrawal of troops took place. Señor Allendesalazar said he gladly gave the assurance that this would be done. Things, however, had not yet got so far, and he did not doubt the French Government would investigate the causes of complaint, and punish the guilty parties.

The press has seized upon these fresh Casa Blanca incidents as a text for renewed diatribes against the policy of co-operation with France in Morocco, which, from the first, has been so unpopular in this country. It appeals to public opinion to compel the Government to withdraw the Spanish troops out of reach of further ill-treatment and humiliation at the hands of the French.

These sentiments are also strongly held by the military element in Madrid, which has from the first protested against the subordinate part which the Spanish contingent was called upon to play, and they have been persistently and not unavailingly instilled into the ear of the King of Spain himself, who spoke to me at some length on the subject

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a few days ago. His Majesty told me the Spanish newspaper reports had been fully confirmed by those since received from the Spanish military authorities at Casa Blanca. In restricting within the narrowest limits the sphere of authority of the Spanish extra-urban police force, in refusing to allow Spanish sentinels to guard the French military establishments within the town of Casa Blanca, in insisting on the exercise of exclusive control over the international wireless telegraph station, in the general attitude of contempt which they had assumed towards the Spanish troops, the King saw evidence of a manifest French design to reduce the Spanish contingent to absolute impotence, and to humiliate it in the eyes of the natives. This kind of treatment at the hands of the wild horde of Algerians and of the ruffians of the Foreign Legion was becoming rapidly intolerable. His Majesty said that his own troops were composed of decent Spanish soldiers, and of the Riff contingent recently arrived, which was perfectly well disciplined and thoroughly loyal to Spain. He feared he would be compelled to withdraw them, for they might otherwise flare up at any moment under French insults and create a general conflagration. King Alfonso went on to speak of the large Spanish population of the Province of Oran which had many grievances against the Algerian Government.

His Majesty was evidently much irritated by the reports which had just reached him. I said I was sure the French authorities would inquire into the conduct of the French native troops, and punish any that might be found guilty, and that there could be no desire on their part to treat the Spanish troops otherwise than in a friendly manner, as France well knew that her action in Morocco was largely justified in the eyes of Europe by the theory that she and Spain were operating together to carry out the engagements undertaken at Algeciras.

I have since been glad to find that the Minister for Foreign Affairs considers His Majesty's agitation to be somewhat exaggerated and due mainly to military inspiration. Señor Allendesalazar is, however, far from satisfied with the state of things at Casa Blanca, where the relative position and duties of the French and Spanish troops and police are still very ill-defined. He has every hope that the friendly conferences now believed to be in progress between the French and Spanish Representatives at Tangier will lead to a better understanding between the two forces.

The French Ambassador's information as to what really happened at Casa Blanca is still very imperfect. He has no doubt the whole incident was provoked by the Spanish troops, with whose demeanour he has as much fault to find as the King of Spain with that of the French native troops. He is aware of the irritation felt by the Spanish army as a whole, and he feels sure their feelings will be taken into account and a full inquiry ordered. He complains of the freedom with which Spanish soldiers are allowed to wander about the town fully armed when off duty.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MAURICE DE BUNSEN.

[18740] No. 79.

Sir F. Lascelles to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 1.)

(No. 247. Confidential.)
Berlin, May 27, 1908.

Sir,

M. CAMBON informed me yesterday that on the previous evening he had called upon Herr von Schön to communicate to him, by order of his Government, the instructions recently given to General d'Amade to abstain from further military operations, and to make preparations for the eventual withdrawal of the French troops from Morocco. It was intended to leave military posts, composed of French and Moroccan troops, at certain places in the Shawia territory, which should by degrees be left entirely in the hands of Moroccan troops. M. Cambon had been careful to point out that the instructions to General d'Amade were a proof of the desire of the French Government to withdraw their troops from Morocco, but that it was not to be expected that they would be able to do so at once; indeed, he feared that some considerable time would elapse before they found themselves in a position to carry out their intentions.

A report having reached M. Cambon that a representation was likely to be made to the German Government to induce them to recognize Mulai Hafid as Sultan of Morocco, he thought it advisable to return to the Foreign Office yesterday, Herr von Schön's reception day, for the purpose of drawing his Excellency's attention to this report. He argued that it would not be competent for one of the Signatory Powers of

the Act of Algeciras to recognize a successor to Abdul Aziz, with whom the Act had been concluded, without the consent of the other Signatories. It was, of course, possible that Abdul Aziz should cease to be Sultan of Morocco; he might die, he might abdicate after being defeated by Mulai Hafid, but even if he disappeared altogether, it would be necessary for all the Signatories of the Algeciras Act to agree as to whom they would recognize as his successor. It was by no means certain that Mulai Hafid, even if he should be successful against Abdul Aziz, would be able to consolidate his power in Morocco to such an extent as to make it advisable to recognize him as Sultan. If, therefore, one of the Powers were to recognize him without consulting the others, it would be open to any of them to put forward a rival candidate. It was possible that the Spaniards might prefer El Roghi, who exercised considerable authority in the neighbourhood of Melilla, and it was conceivable that the French might prefer the Shereef of Wazan, who was a personage of great importance.

M. Cambon thoroughly believes that Herr von Schön, and, indeed, the German Government as a whole, are sincere in their desire that the Moroccan questions should not give rise to further complications, and would be glad to see the difficulties with which France has to contend removed, so that she should be able to carry out her intention of withdrawing her troops, and he hoped that the warning he has given against the premature recognition of Mulai Hafid by the German Government alone may not remain without effect.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

[18985] No. 80.

Sir G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 2.)

(No. 121.)
Tangier, May 26, 1908.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 109 of the 14th instant, I now have the honour to report that the Moorish Government has appointed the three Moorish Delegates who are to form part of the International Commission to meet at Casa Blanca to examine and decide upon claims arising out of the events of August last. The gentlemen appointed for this task are:—

1. Mulai-el-Amin, an uncle of the Sultan, who at the time of those events was in command of the Government force in the Casa Blanca district, and has since fulfilled the functions of Governor of the town.
2. Hadj-el-Hassem-el-Ghassal, a Tangier Notable, formerly a Secretary in Sid Torres' Council, and who accompanied the Congratulatory Mission to London as Secretary on the occasion of the King's Coronation. He was also one of the Tangier Delegates to the Council assembled at Fez in 1905 to discuss the French proposals put forward by M. Saint-René Taillandier.
3. Sid Sadik Alhardan, also a Tangier Notable and a member of the Fez Assembly of 1905.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

[18986] No. 81.

Sir G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 2.)

(No. 122.)
Tangier, May 26, 1908.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 113 of the 18th instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from His Majesty's Consul at Casa Blanca, giving further information in regard to the affray which occurred between French soldiers and the Spanish Riff police on the 12th instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

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Inclosure in No. 81.

Consul Madden to Sir G. Lowther.

(No. 158.)

Casa Blanca, May 24, 1908.

Sir,

IN speaking this morning with the Spanish Consul, the conversation turned on the recent incident between the French soldiers and the Riff police. The Consul said that as far as he knew the French had confined themselves to holding an inquiry, and he had not heard that any French soldiers had yet been punished for killing the Riff policeman and wounding another. In fact, he complained very much of the inaction of the French Consul, as the Zouave guard concerned in the affray was not even changed for at least a whole day after the occurrence took place. Señor Bargiela, the Spanish Consul, avers that the French officers are afraid of their own soldiers, and dare not punish them. He said he had spoken very plainly to the French Consul regarding the invasion of the Spanish police zone by the Zouaves, and the Madrid Government had approved his action.

The Consul went on to explain to me that on the 13th instant, the day after the occurrence, he had addressed a very long cypher report to the Spanish Legation, and took it down to the Wireless Telegraph Company's station to be radiographed to Tangier. A French sailor on duty there said he was unable to forward it, having received orders from Admiral Philibert to send on no messages, as the wireless plant on board the cruiser "Kléber" was in use for the transmission to and fro of French Government telegrams. The Spanish Consul thereupon protested, on the ground that the Wireless Telegraph Company is an international concern, and his message was official and important. Nevertheless the Consul's message was not sent to Tangier till the 14th instant, so that the Spanish Legation could not have received its own official report of the occurrence for more than a day after the French had theirs.

General d'Amade's Chief of the Staff told me yesterday that he had endless papers to wade through on this affair, but I do not fancy that any serious action against the French soldiers implicated has yet been taken.

The incident was undoubtedly unfortunate, and both sides displayed a great deal of heat over it. It is a pity they were not strong enough to keep cool and conduct an inquiry, punishing in due course the persons found blamable.

The Riffs are again policing the roads in the Spanish extra-urban sector, but instead of Riffians alone, as before the recent fracas, Spanish regulars are now on duty with the Riffs.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. M. MADDEN

[19490] No. 82.

Sir G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 6.)

(No. 123. Confidential.)

Tangier, May 26, 1908.

Sir,

EL MENEBHI informed me to-day that he had yesterday received a visit trom M. Bellaire, until recently French Vice-Consul at Alcazar, who proposed to him on behalf of the French Minister that he should accept office as Vizier under Sultan Abdul Aziz, and promising him the fullest support and every guarantee should he agree to do so. El Menebhi, however, maintained his decision frequently expressed to me to refuse all offers to take office under the present Sultan, or any other, owing to the treatment he had received at the hands of Abdul Aziz.

On receipt of El Menebhi's answer, M. Regnault asked him to call and see him, which he did last night. At that meeting M. Regnault, who had with him only M. Bellaire, as interpreter, spoke with him on the present crisis with great frankness, and particularly on the new situation which had been created by the arrival of Mulai Hafid at Mequinez, which, he said, was quite unexpected, and he asked El Menebhi to let him have the benefit of his opinion on the situation in general.

El Menebhi tells me he pointed out the hopelessness of the cause of Mulai Abdul Aziz, who has been deserted by practically the whole country, in favour of his brother Hafid, and he blamed the supineness of the Sultan and his Viziers for allowing matters to reach their present state. Had energy been displayed by them only a few months

since, all might have been saved. They had not even seconded the action of the French in the Shawia. That opportunity of striking a blow in their own cause when a large portion of South Morocco was engaged in combating the French had been allowed to slip. El Bagdadi's force had, it is true, very late in the day set out from Rabat for Fez, but had come to a standstill, and would, if nothing worse happened, almost certainly be forced to retire on Rabat. M. Regnault told him the force was stopped for want of funds with which to purchase a passage through the opposing tribes. El Menebhi expressed his opinion that it would be a great mistake to pay anything to the tribes, as, that system once started, the demands would be never ending and constantly increasing. Another factor in the situation of that force is the imprisonment of the brother of El Bagdadi by Mulai Hafid at Mequinez. El Menebhi estimated that Mulai Abdul Aziz might have at the outside 15,000 men in all, scattered over the ports, and even if he could collect them in one place he would effect nothing with them in a country the whole of which is hostile, and he felt sure M. Regnault would appreciate the truth of this if he considered what had been done outside Casa Blanca by a force almost that size, composed of well-disciplined European troops, properly armed and equipped.

In answer to a question as to the possibility of a reconciliation being effected by Hadj Omar Tazzi between Kaïds 'Mtoogi and Anflus in the south. El Menebhi said that, from his knowledge of the two men and their quarrel, he considered that quite beyond the bounds of possibility, and, if 'Mtoogi sided with Abdul Aziz, Anflus would be sure to go over to Mulai Hafid, but, even granting it were possible, their uniting would have no effect on the cause of Abdul Aziz in that district, as Morocco City and the neighbouring tribes are entirely in favour of Hafid.

M. Regnault then spoke of letters which he had heard had reached the tribes lying north and west of Fez, and asked if Menebhi had any idea of their contents. El Menebhi did not know, but presumed they were letters urging the tribes to proclaim Mulai Hafid and accept him, as had been done by the rest of the country; and as it is almost certain they will do this, other letters may shortly be expected to be sent to them to compel those of their neighbours who may still hold out to proclaim him also. This would probably lead to coercive measures against Alcazar, and possibly Tangier, Larache, and Tetuan, which would entail measures on an extensive scale for their protection. M. Regnault admitted that the unexpected arrival of Mulai Hafid at Mequinez gave a much more serious aspect to affairs, and, although he had no instructions from his Government to mention such a matter, he asked El Menebhi whether he would be inclined to act as intermediary in any communications which it might be desirable to make to Mulai Hafid. To this request Menebhi also replied that he preferred to keep quite apart from such matters, but that he would be willing to forward anything with which M. Regnault might trust him to El Glawi, the Grand Vizier appointed by Mulai Hafid, who, El Menebhi tells me, is very pro-French since his visit to Algeria some years since, when he was very well treated by the French, and where he seems to have been considerably impressed by what he saw. He was confident that in his present nervous condition Mulai Hafid would agree to whatever proposals France might make to him; in fact, he would, he thought, make terms with any one who will recognize him. M. Regnault on more than one occasion during his conversation with El Menebhi expressed his fear that there might be some understanding between Mulai Hafid and the German Government, probably brought about by a German who had resided at Morocco City, and had become intimate with him after the death of Dr. Mauchamp, as it was only since the death of the doctor that Mulai Hafid had taken active measures against his brother.

El Menebhi gave it as his opinion that the great mistake was committed when they failed to attack and disperse the force of Mulai Hafid at Meshraa-es-Shair, on the Rabia River. M. Regnault admitted the truth of this, and said it was only the fear of European complications, should they take up the cause of Abdul Aziz too openly against his brother, that had held them back from that course, and again referred to the possibility of an understanding existing between Mulai Hafid and Germany.

El Menebhi said that three courses were open to the French, and they must choose which they intend to adopt:—

1. The conquest of Morocco, which they are able to effect, but which M. Regnault said did not enter into their plans.

2. To continue their support of Abdul Aziz, which will possibly necessitate the dispatch of a large force to each of the coast towns, and they have an example of what that will mean in Casa Blanca.

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3. To come to terms with Mulai Hafid, who has the whole country with him, and who will, he is convinced, be prepared to meet him half-way.

El Menebhi, with a view, no doubt, to bring home to M. Regnault his inability to keep his own protégés under control, during his conversation asked him how it was he had been unable to restrain the Wazzan Shereefs from taking up the cause of Hafid, to which M. Regnault answered that their action in this respect had been the cause of much surprise to him, as by it they had lost considerable revenues from Algeria. El Menebhi explained to him, however, that by Islamic law they had no choice but to declare for the Sultan, who had been proclaimed by practically the whole country.

I confess to some surprise at M. Regnault having approached El Menebhi, who is so markedly under British protection, on such a very serious subject without giving me some indication of his intention to do so. I have always enjoined on Menebhi extreme caution in these matters, and I do not propose to give M. Regnault any hint that I am acquainted with the overtures he made to El Menebhi. Moreover, if the negotiations with Mulai Hafid prove successful, they may eventually redound both to the advantage of El Menebhi and to that of the French Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

[19491] No. 83.

Sir G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received June* 6.)

(No. 124.)
Sir, *Tangier, May* 29, 1908.

ALTHOUGH M. Regnault, in conversation with me to-day, spoke at great length on the situation, he made no mention of his interviews with Menebhi as reported in my despatch No. 123. He was, he said, of opinion that the cause of the Sultan was in a very precarious state. He only now realized that this was a very fanatical country, and that fanaticism was spreading rapidly. Mulai Hafid was supported by a very strong Mahommedan movement. He had even evidence that he had supporters as far east as Tunis. His strength lay in his being regarded as a violent opponent of Christianity.

What his next move would be he did not know. It would seem natural that, once firmly established at Mequinez and Fez, he should make a move on one or more of the ports, but it was not in the traditions of the tribes of the north to move unless led by the south, which was now comparatively quiet, and Mulai Hafid was, as far as he could gather, without financial resources. M. Regnault's advisers were, however, of opinion that Mulai Hafid would not make any attempt on the ports, and his only course would thus be to approach the French with a view to coming to terms.

Abdul Aziz had been much discredited by his apathy and want of energy, but he still had some prospect of maintaining himself in power. Much depended upon whether the present mission of Hadj Omar Tazzi, the object of which was to reconcile the two lifelong enemies, 'Mtoogi and Anflus, met with success or not. If they could be reconciled, the recapture of Marakesh for the Sultan would be an easy matter. A factor in favour of His Majesty was that the entire revenues of the Customs for the month of June would be at his disposal, the amounts due for the service of the loan up to the 1st July having already been paid.

The retreat of Bagdadi and his army to Mehedia had been accomplished without losing any guns. A certain number of Sherarda horsemen had deserted, but otherwise the army remained intact. This appears to have been to the Makhzen a great matter of congratulation.

M. Regnault seemed to me to be endeavouring to make out the best case he could for the Sultan, and is still unwilling to commit himself to any degree in favour of Mulai Hafid, but I cannot help thinking that he must now realize that the vast majority of the people of this country are in favour of the latter, and that he was trying to explain the failure of French policy here by the fact of there having arisen a strong nationalist movement hitherto unknown in this country.

The only direct admission he made, however, was that he had not until recently realized the strength of the anti-Christian movement, and in this I cannot but think

that he loses sight somewhat of the fact that a great measure of this movement is at present, perhaps from the force of circumstances, directed almost entirely against the French alone.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

[19492] No. 84.

Sir G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received June* 6.)

(No. 125.)
Sir, *Tangier, May* 31, 1908.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a summary of events based on news received during the past week.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

Inclosure in No. 84.

Events of the Week.

AS a natural result of the arrival of Mulai Hafid at Mequinez, several arrests have been made among the supporters of Abdul Aziz in that town and in Fez. The most important personage arrested is Saïd El Bagdadi, the brother of the Commander of the Sultan's mehalla. This step was no doubt taken with a view to exerting influence upon the latter. It is alleged that several persons owe their immunity from arrest to letters dispatched by the German Consul at Casa Blanca to the Hafidist authorities, asking that, in view of the friendly relations existing between the two Government, those persons who were connected with German merchants might not be punished.

At Mogador an abortive attempt has been made by the Governor to compel some fifty men of the town militia to enrol themselves in the police. The men at once took sanctuary, remaining until they had obtained the Governor's promise that no further attempt to coerce them would be made.

The French controleur of the custom-house at the above-named port entered upon his duties on the 24th instant, to the satisfaction of the foreign merchants, who hope that the long-standing abuses will now be put an end to.

Preparations for the departure of the mehalla, which is to retake Marakesh, are going on, but it is very unlikely that it will ever start, failing an agreement between Kaïds Anflus and 'Mtoogi. It appears that Kaïds Glawi and Gondafi have settled their differences and joined in an attack upon the Azizist Kaïd of Demnat, the latter being killed and his tribes severely punished. It is further reported that Kaïd 'Mtoogi is to be attacked at an early date. There would seem to be little hope of the Sultan's forces retaking Azemour. The Hafidist authorities there are said to be making every preparation to repel an attack if made. It is reported that a contingent of 4,000 men from Draa, in the extreme south, has reached Marakesh, fired with enthusiasm for the holy war.

Mr. Madden learns from the French Chief of the Staff that the Emdakra tribes have not yet submitted, and that further punitive measures will have eventually to be undertaken against them. At present, however, there is no fighting, as the tribes are all engaged in harvesting. The French authorities are busy making roads and establishing order in the Shawia. A census of the tribes in the district is being taken, no doubt with a view to the eventual raising of the war indemnity. This measure naturally meets with considerable opposition at the hands of the Arabs.

It is reported from Rabat that on the 28th instant Mulai Zin, Shereefian Head of the Mehalla of Bushta Bagdadi, and brother of the Sultan, has gone over to Mulai Hafid and fled to Fez, together with a large number of the Household troops.

From latest news there would appear to be but little ground for hope that any understanding may be arrived at between Kaïd Anflus and 'Mtoogi, so that the project of a joint expedition to Marakesh is not likely to be realized.

(Initialled) F. R.

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[19493] No. 85.

Sir G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 6.)

(No. 126.) *Tangier, May 31, 1908.*

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 118 of the 21st instant, I now have the honour to state that an official notification has reached me of the appointment of Sid Abdel-Krim-ben-Sliman as Minister of the Interior, and of the appointment of his First Secretary, Sid Dris-el-Bukili, as Minister for Foreign Affairs.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

[19607] No. 86.

Mr. E. Grant Duff to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 8.)

(No. 19.) *Madrid, June 8, 1908.*

(Telegraphic.) P.

IN the course of conversation on the subject of Morocco the French Ambassador yesterday expressed to me his anxiety in regard to the situation at Casa Blanca.

The Spanish army, his Excellency said, had been much irritated by the events which had recently occurred there, and, although the attitude of the Spanish Government was as yet conciliatory, they might be forced by public opinion in this country, in the event of the recurrence of further untoward incidents, to withdraw their contingent, as being the simplest solution of the difficulty.

M. Révoil said that he hoped that you might see your way to speaking to the Spanish Ambassador and pointing out to him how highly desirable it was that the Commanders of the respective contingents at Casa Blanca should unite their efforts in order that further friction might be avoided.

[20299] No. 87.

Mr. Rattigan to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 13.)

(No. 129.) *Tangier, June 2, 1908.*

Sir,

FROM information received from His Majesty's Consulate at Casa Blanca it would seem that undue importance had been ascribed by the German press to the punishment of a German "semsar" by the French military authorities, and to the death of a second whilst fighting against the French troops.

It appears that in the first instance a German protégé, whose house and flocks had been protected by the General, subsequently was proved guilty of treachery towards the French. As a punishment his house was destroyed by order of the General.

In the second case, Mr. Madden is informed by the French Consul that the German protégé in question was killed in action during the last engagement at Wad-el-Atach. In his house the French discovered a saddle belonging to a French officer who was killed in a previous engagement, some French arms, and a quantity of ammunition. It appears that the man in question was in the habit of riding a mule laden with cartridges to supply the Emdakra tribe during their attacks on the French troops. His house was also ordered to be destroyed.

The German Consul mentioned in conversation with Mr. Madden that he was far from certain that the man was really killed in action, as reported by the French, but there seems little reason to doubt that such was in fact the case.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FRANK RATTIGAN.

[19820] No. 88.

Mr. Rattigan to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 9.)

(No. 130.) *Tangier, June 3, 1908.*

Sir,

WITH reference to Sir G. Lowther's despatch No. 122 of the 27th ultimo, I have the honour to report that further trouble occurred at Casa Blanca on the night of the 31st ultimo between French "Tirailleurs" and Spanish police. I am informed by Mr. Madden that two "Tirailleurs," just returned from the Shawia, who were the worse for drink, attacked two of the Spanish Moorish police. Some Spanish regulars intervened, and were in their turn attacked by the "Tirailleurs." A fracas ensued, in which civilians took part, and heavy stones, taken from huts ruined by the bombardment, were freely used as missiles. Several persons are reported to have been injured during the affray.

It appears that the French soldiers after campaigning in the country frequently get out of hand on their return to town, and, unless strict precautions are henceforth taken, it is to be feared that there may one day be serious trouble between them and the Spanish forces.

Mr. Madden learns that after the fracas the French authorities turned all soldiers not on duty outside the walls, and placed armed guards all night at certain points within the town.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FRANK RATTIGAN.

[19821] No. 89.

Mr. Rattigan to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 9.)

(No. 131.) *Tangier, June 3, 1908.*

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a letter addressed by the new Foreign Minister to the doyen of the Diplomatic Body, with the request that it might communicated to the foreign Representatives for transmission to their respective Governments.

In this letter Cid Boukili, while again laying stress on the good faith and excellent intentions of the Maghzen, and ascribing the present disorders entirely to the intrigues of Mulai Hafid, states that the Sultan has decided to immediately fortify all the ports, in order to protect the lives and property of foreigners, and that the Maghzen will continue to carry out the reforms prescribed by the Act of Algeciras In this he hopes that they may rely on the support of all the Powers. Meanwhile, every effort will be made to restore order among the tribes.

The intention of the Sultan to fortify all the ports would imply some apprehension of their being attacked by the tribes at no very remote date. There would, however, appear to be very little evidence that such an event is likely. Certainly, in Tangier, a place much given to panics of such a nature, nothing has occurred in any way to disturb the feeling of security in the town. It is, of course, far more probable that Mulai Hafid may try to quietly obtain possession of the ports, and no doubt it is really this contingency that inspires the Maghzen with apprehension.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FRANK RATTIGAN.

Inclosure in No. 89.

Dris-el-Boukili to Count Koziebrodzki.

(Traduction.)

(Après les compliments d'usage.) *Rabih 26, 1326 (le 28 Mai, 1908).*

VOUS n'ignorez pas, ainsi que votre illustre Gouvernement, les efforts faits par le Makhzen depuis l'apparition du révolté à Marrakesh, en employant toutes les mesures pour mettre fin à cet état de choses, calmer la nation, et conserver la paix dans tout l'Empire Chérifien. La situation ayant pris la tournure que vous connaissez, savoir, l'arrivée du révolté à Méquinez, les efforts qu'il emploie pour exciter les Kabyles du nord—lesquelles étaient calmes et tranquilles—par les moyens habituels : proclama-

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tion de la guerre sainte, excitation de la haine contre les étrangers aux yeux du public, en les exhortant de les traiter d'une manière contraire au traitement amical en usage chez toutes les nations civilisées, il a fallu appeler l'attention sur ces faits.

Il est naturel que cette propagande pernicieuse pousse à l'extrême la sauvagerie de la populace et lui suggère des choses impossibles à prévoir, et cela pourrait même les pousser à attaquer un port ou de s'emparer d'un étranger. (Que Dieu ne permette cela !) Sa Majesté m'a donc ordonné d'établir auprès de votre Excellence la vérité sur ces événements importants, du commencement jusqu'à la fin, en vous expliquant les intentions de Sa Majesté et les mesures qu'elle compte employer pour parer à cette situation.

La présente situation ne peut pas être comparée aux précédentes relatées dans l'histoire de ses prédécesseurs concernant les révolutionnaires, qui n'avaient d'autre ambition que le trône; c'est ainsi qu'il n'était pas nécessaire d'attirer l'attention des Puissances qui ont des intérêts dans cet Empire et qui se préoccupent de la conservation de la tranquillité et de l'empêchement de troubles, étant données les diverses relations commerciales que leurs nationaux ont dans ce pays; tandis que le présent révolté base sa révolution sur des motifs contraires au progrès et à la civilisation.

Il est clair que cette révolution est née depuis qu'on a commencé à infliger le châtiment juste et nécessaire aux assassins de la Shaouia qui ont tué les ouvriers étrangers qui travaillaient à l'amélioration du port de Casa Blanca. Ce révolté a pris ceci comme motif pour réaliser ses vœux, et à cet effet il commença à proclamer la guerre sainte et exciter l'opinion publique dans tout le pays, au point que la populace irréfléchie, qui ne voit pas les conséquences et les résultats fâcheux, s'est groupée autour de lui, par des menaces et par la force, et a obligé ceux qui détenaient le pouvoir à Marrakesh de le suivre (proclamer).

Le Makhzen, ayant eu connaissance de ces faits, a été vivement impressionné, prévoyant les grands préjudices qui en résulteraient, et immédiatement Sa Majesté Chérifienne, dans le but de restreindre l'étendue de la révolution, s'est empressée de partir au plus vite pour Rabat, et elle a de suite mis sur ses gardes les Kabyles du sud pour prévenir les conséquences de leur sauvagerie. Elle a prêté toute son attention à reprendre les ports de Mazagan et de Saffi, où de grandes quantités de contrabande pénétraient en même temps, ainsi qu'à exécuter dans ces deux ports les réformes prévues dans l'Acte d'Algésiras, entre autres, l'établissement de la police dans tous les ports Chérifiens. Pendant que le Makhzen faisait face à toutes ces difficultés, il étudiait les moyens les plus rapides pour étouffer la révolution; il a appris les événements de Fez, savoir, que la population avait été excitée par les exhortations de gens qui l'induisaient en erreur quant au véritable but des réformes. Il est évident que cette révolution à Fez a été menée par la plus basse classe de la capitale qui ne vit que de troubles et d'insubordination, bien entendu, séduite par quelques-uns dont le but à faire ceci est bien connu—la preuve en est leur désir de perpétuer la révolution en abolissant les impôts et les revenus établis depuis longtemps par le Makhzen.

Également, il est bien connu par nous et par toutes les Grandes Puissances que les Oolama (savants) et les gens influents et notables de Fez n'ont suivi la populace que contraints et dans le but d'empêcher de répandre du sang, d'éviter le pillage de maisons, la violation des femmes, et la destruction des maisons, ce que la populace désirait ardemment. Le Makhzen, considérant cette situation, et étudiant les moyens que le cas comporte, a décidé sans aucun retard, et avec la plus grande hâte, de fortifier tous les ports d'une façon à bien protéger les étrangers y résidant, en même temps que leur commerce et leurs intérêts, et de prêter toute son attention à l'exécution des réformes, ainsi qu'il est prévu dans l'Acte d'Algésiras, dans tous les ports et ses environs. Sa Majesté, cependant, ne cesse de faire ce qu'elle peut pour soumettre les Kabyles qui se tiennent en état de révolution en effaçant toutes les traces du révolte, puisqu'il en résulte le bien-être de la nation et du pays et la tranquillité des étrangers. Sa Majesté ne doute pas que les Puissances respectées qui ont plus d'une fois appelé son attention à l'exécution des réformes et à la civilisation du pays, ne reconnaîtront les soins pris par elle en même temps que ses bonnes intentions, et préféreront le progrès et la civilisation à la décadence et à l'ignorance.

Sa Majesté vous prie de communiquer ceci aux Représentants des Puissances respectées, afin qu'ils veuillent en référer à leurs Gouvernements et qu'ils en prennent note.

(Signé) DRIS-EL-BOUKILI.

[20078] No. 90.

Mr. Rattigan to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received June* 11.)

(No. 133. Confidential.)

Sir, *Tangier, June* 5, 1908.

I THIS morning received a visit from the French Minister, who spoke at some length on the situation. He appears still to entertain some hope that the movement in favour of Mulai Hafid may yet come to nothing. This view he bases on the great difficulty experienced by the Pretender in obtaining money, and the impossibility of his retaining control of al the unruly factors which go to make up his party, unless he has considerable funds at his disposal. M. Regnault, while admitting the great enthusiasm with which the cause of the Pretender has been embraced by the vast majority of the population, is of opinion that Mulai Hafid is not strong enough to impose a policy of his own upon his supporters. For this reason he considers that it is impossible to take very seriously the declarations so often made by the Pretender that he is anxious to carry out the reforms prescribed by the Act of Algeciras.

I remarked that the support of Cid Glawi, perhaps at the present moment the strongest man in Morocco, who was known to be decidedly pro-French, might have considerable effect in enabling Mulai Hafid to suppress the fanatical section of his party. While admitting the value of Cid Glawi's support, M. Regnault observed that the suppression of the turbulent elements of the party could only be a matter of the greatest difficulty for Mulai Hafid, who had been hoist into his present position at the head of a violent anti-European movement, which he would find it impossible to control.

M. Regnault went on to say that the situation would in no way be changed by the entry of Mulai Hafid into Fez, which, it is announced, will take place to-morrow. The French Government would continue to have no dealings with the Pretender as long as Abdul Aziz remained the legitimate Sovereign of the country; but, in the event of Mulai Hafid's Proclamation in the ports, the latter would, of course, have to be recognized as Sultan. He agreed that it was against this contingency that His Majesty's intention to fortify all the ports, referred to in my despatch No. 131 of the 4th instant, was directed. It is hoped, M. Regnault tells me, that Alcazar, where the mehalla remains in a fairly satisfactory condition and the Governor is an enemy of Mulai Hafid, may serve as a buffer in any attempt by the latter to obtain possession of the northern ports.

The Sultan has, it appears, complained very bitterly to M. Regnault of the conduct of the Pretender in imprisoning at Fez the relations of all who have remained loyal to their Sovereign. The latest case is that of El Bagdadi, the Commander of the mehalla destined to retake Fez. This officer has been forced to obtain permission from His Majesty to withdraw to his home, in order to avoid the violation of his wives at Fez, with which he had been threatened. While it is no doubt true that this system of blackmail has been adopted in some cases, it is equally true that in many instances officials who are convinced of the hopelessness of the Sultan's cause put forward as a pretext for their withdrawal that their wives and families are threatened with violation and imprisonment by the Pretender.

Upon my asking M. Regnault whether, in his opinion, the continuance of the present situation, viz., the control of the ports by Abdul Aziz and the unchallenged supremacy of Mulai Hafid in the interior, would not lead to complete anarchy, he admitted that such would inevitably be the case. In this regard it would appear to be a somewhat general impression in diplomatic circles here that a state of anarchy would not be regarded by the French authorities as a complete disaster, as it is hoped that the Powers would thereby be induced to wash their hands of this country as hopeless. In this connection it is reported that the Roghi, who is alleged to have come to an understanding with the French, and who has up till now remained quiet, is preparing to advance on Tazza in the hope of creating a diversion in his favour. No doubt any complication of this nature would contribute towards weakening the cause of Mulai Hafid.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FRANK RATTIGAN.

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[20300] No. 91.

Mr. Rattigan to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 13.)

(No. 134.)

Tangier, June 7, 1908.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 130 of the 3rd instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Madden, dealing with Franco-Spanish relations at Casa Blanca.

Mr. Madden informs me privately that the foreign community at Casa Blanca is almost unanimous in attributing the blame for the incidents which have occurred between the Spanish and French troops to the latter. But of course, the opinion of a community which, with some exceptions, has not shown itself in much sympathy with the French, cannot well be regarded as entirely impartial.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FRANK RATTIGAN.

Inclosure in No. 91.

Consul Madden to Mr. Rattigan.

(No. 169. Confidential.)

Casa Blanca, June 3, 1908.

Sir,

IN conversation to-day with the Spanish Consul at his Consulate, Señor Bargiela gave me, confidentially, two letters to read which he had received the previous day from the French Consul.

In the first of these letters the French Consul inclosed copy of a letter addressed to himself by General d'Amade, written from Ben Sliman Camp. Although, of course, I am unable from memory to give fully the contents of the letter, yet its general purport was to inform the French Consul that on the 17th instant 6,000 men of the French Corps of Occupation will arrive at Casa Blanca from the Showia; and that General d'Amade will then place strong patrols in the streets to keep order, acting with the local forces. These patrols will be under strictest discipline and control. The General, however, stated that he will permit of "no direct foreign intervention, regular or irregular, in case of repressive measures, should such be necessary"; and he went on to say that he requested the French Consul to warn foreigners concerned of the above: and also that in case of any assault or attack on French soldiers the offenders would be brought up before a military tribunal.

The second letter from the French Consul contained a copy of a further letter from General d'Amade requesting him to inform the competent Consular authority of two complaints he had to make: first, that on the night of the 31st May–1st June a French soldier was set upon by Spanish Moroccan Police, although some French officers in the vicinity tried amicably to stop it; second, that after the said occurrence an armed Spanish military guard patrolled the streets of the town in contravention of the Act of Algeciras. General d'Amade pointed out, further, to the French Consul the grave consequences such acts might entail, and the French Consul in his covering letter inquired from the Spanish Consul what steps he proposed to take to prevent a repetition of such cases.

Neither of the letters from the General have been communicated to any other Consulate so far as I am aware.

My Spanish colleague said that the complaints made should be supported by evidence, as the actual facts are quite contrary to what is stated by the French General to have occurred. The assault referred to, he said, took place quite near the Spanish Consulate, and, in reality, some "Tirailleurs" with Zouaves, seeing a Spanish Moroccan policeman, went up to him and shouted "you are Spanish," and gave him a poignard wound. In the second place, no Spanish patrol appeared in the streets; nothing more than a soldier or two carrying his rifle, and belonging to the Spanish military guard on duty at the barracks in town allotted to the Spaniards by the Makhzen. The Consul said that the French Minister on his recent visit requested the Spaniards to evacuate these barracks, in order to get them outside, but he had declined to accede to this request.

The Spanish Consul tells me that he had referred the two letters from the French Consul to the Spanish Minister in Tangier.

It is evident from the foregoing that the feeling at the French Consulate towards the Spaniards is very bitter.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. M. MADDEN.

P.S.—The Spanish barracks in town above referred to were granted by the Makhzen for the Spanish cavalry during the first few days of the Franco-Spanish occupation. The Spanish cavalry have since been withdrawn. The barracks have, however, been retained by the Spanish forces for the use of the mounted section of the Spanish Moroccan police.

A small picket of Spanish regulars mounts guard outside the gate of these barracks.

A. M. M.

[20301] No. 92.

Mr. Rattigan to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 13.)

(No. 135.)

Tangier, June 7, 1908.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Consul at Casa Blanca, inclosing a report of the final results arrived at in the examination of British claims for losses arising out of the events of August last.

Mr. Madden informs me that Mr. Thorne, the British Claims Commissioner, met the members of the local British Claims Commission on the 2nd instant, when it was decided that Mr. Thorne should communicate to British claimants the results arrived at by the local Commission, in order to afford them the opportunity of making any observation they desired on the awards made.

Mr. Thorne is of opinion that the awards recommended by the local Commission will have a good chance of being accepted by the International Commission, and he proposes to advise claimants generally to accept the decision of the local Commission, unless they can show good reason for amendment.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FRANK RATTIGAN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 92.

Consul Madden to Mr. Rattigan.

(No. 171.)

Casa Blanca, June 5, 1908.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inclose letter addressed by the members of the local British Claims Commission to His Majesty's Minister, reporting the final results arrived at in the examination of British claims due to the bombardment and siege of Casa Blanca last August.

I have handed over to Mr. W. H. H. Thorne, the British Commissioner on the International Claims Commission, all the *dossiers* of British claims (ninety-two in number) received by me at this Consulate.

I understand from Mr. Thorne that the International Commission will probably fix a date after which no further claims can be accepted. Steps will, of course, be taken to give due notice of this date when decided upon.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. M. MADDEN.

Inclosure 2 in No. 92.

Local British Claims Commission to Sir G. Lowther.

Casa Blanca, June 4, 1908.

Sir,

WE have the honour to report to you that we have now completed the preliminary examination of all British claims due to the bombardment received up to date.

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The results of the examination are shown in the following Table:—

	Number.	Amount claimed (including direct and indirect losses).	Amount allowed.
		£	£
Claims of British subjects and firms resident in Casa Blanca	53	134,077	71,127
Claims of British subjects and firms non-resident in Casa Blanca	39	51,312	20,275
Total	92	185,389	91,402

We have spared neither time nor trouble in their examination. All possible proofs have been carefully scrutinized; and, in cases where no evidence has been forthcoming, owing to disappearance of books and documents in the bombardment, we have endeavoured to assess each individual loss, bearing in mind the probabilities of each case as well as the position and standing of the claimants previous to the events.

The Commission, while acting to the best of its ability justly towards all claimants, has endeavoured in its work to reduce British claims to a level which it is believed fairly represents their legitimate losses.

A separate report has been drawn up on each claim.

We have, &c.
(Signed) A. M. MADDEN.
C. LAMB.
JOHN LAPEEN.
H. F. BUTLER.
R. H. BROOME.

[20303] No. 93.

Sir G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 13.)

(No. 137.)
Sir,
Tangier, June 7, 1908.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a summary of events, based on news which has been received during the past week.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

Inclosure in No. 93.

Events of the Week.

THE situation in the ports remains unchanged. The population, though alm os entirely Hafidist in sympathy, do not display active hostility towards the Government.

Considerable excitement appears to have been caused at Casa Blanca by the lowering of the French flag from the Dar-el-Maghzen. It had flown over the Government House since the bombardment of the town in August last. It is stated that this step was taken on telegraphic orders from Paris. Mr. Madden learns that the French authorities are about to hand over to the Moorish officials the control of the prison, which they have held since the bombardment. It is to be hoped that the improvements in the treatment of the prisoners made by the French will be allowed to continue.

General d'Amade was expected to return to Casa Blanca with 5,000 men to-day. It is rumoured that an expedition of 2,000 French troops will then be sent against Azemour, the solitary port which remains in the hands of Mulai Hafid. Some time ago the Mazagan garrison, supported by tribal horsemen, advanced upon this town, but upon the desertion of the supporting tribesmen the Shereefian troops were forced to retire. It is reported that the Hafidist Governor of the town, the brother of Cid Glawi, can rely upon the support of a large body of tribesmen from the Dukalla district.

Considerable despondency prevails in Court circles at Rabat, where many of the Notables have obtained leave from the Sultan to return to their homes, as their families

at Fez and Mequinez are alleged to be in jeopardy from Mulai Hafid. The Sultan has announced his intention of collecting a large force at Rabat, at the head of which he will march upon Fez in about a month's time. It is doubtful, however, if this project will come to anything.

It is reported from Fez that Mulai Hafid has severely reprimanded those who were responsible for the anti-foreign character of his Proclamation. It will be remembered that certain conditions were added to this Proclamation, by which Europeans were to be allowed nowhere except within certain defined limits in the ports. Another feature of these conditions was the non-recognition of the Act of Algeciras. The fanatical Shereef-el-Kitanni, who was responsible for this anti-European outburst, is in disgrace, and has been refused an audience by Mulai Hafid, who has declared that by Moslem law a Sultan is accepted or rejected unconditionally.

Considerable discontent has been caused among the most enthusiastic supporters of the Pretender, by the favour shown to those who are only now deserting the cause of the Sultan. No doubt, however, Mulai Hafid had perceived the necessity of this course in order to win over the waverers. A notable instance of this system of rewarding the latest recruits is the appointment of Cid Hamed Jai, hitherto a warm adherent of Abdul Aziz, as Mohtasseb of Fez. It is reported that when the news of this appointment became known a violent riot took place at Fez.

(Initialled) F. R.

[20425] No. 94.

Mr. White to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 14.)

(No. 33.)
(Telegraphic.) P.
Tangier, June 14, 1908.

I AM informed by the British Consular Agent at Alcazar that great panic prevails there, the Mehalla having arrested their commander and proclaimed Mulai Hafid.

[20560] No. 95.

Mr. E. Grant Duff to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 15.)

(No. 89.)
Sir,
Madrid, June 10, 1908.

ON the 8th instant in the Chamber of Deputies, Señor Romero asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs whether it was true that there had been a further collision on the 31st May at Casa Blanca between Spanish and French troops, that in consequence of these disagreeable incidents the entrance of armed Spanish patrols into the town had been prohibited, and that General d'Amade had appointed Colonel Delnigue to be the Military Governor.

Señor Allendesalazar, in reply, stated that the collision which had occurred had not been between French and Spanish troops, but was the result of a quarrel between Algerian levies in the service of France and certain subjects of the Sultan of Morocco, now being trained as police by Spanish officers. The Spanish Government were fully informed of the details of the matter, and the Spanish and French authorities at Casa Blanca, after making a joint inquiry into the case, had inflicted suitable punishment on the persons concerned, thus demonstrating that the Governments of Madrid and Paris and their Representatives on the spot were doing all they could to prevent the repetition of such incidents.

He could do no more than state that the Government of His Catholic Majesty had no intention of modifying their policy in Morocco, but were on the contrary firmly resolved to carry out their obligations.

Señor Romero again rose and observed that although his Excellency diplomatically stated that the collision had not been between French and Spanish troops, the Algerian levies were in fact French soldiers, while the Morocco police concerned were commanded by Spanish officers who had been repeatedly insulted by the Algerians. He had not presumed to ask the Government to change their international policy in Morocco, but he had always approved Señor Maura's view that Spain should abstain from intervention in Moroccan affairs. It was on this ground that he asked for the withdrawal of the Spanish contingent now at Casa Blanca where it was doing absolutely no good, but might,

on the contrary, in opposition to the opinion of the country, become involved in a conflict for which Spain was not prepared.

Señor Allendesalazar briefly replied that Señor Romero was free to hold any opinions he chose with respect to the action to be taken in Morocco, but the Government who were responsible were obliged to consider all the aspects of the problem, and not isolated details, and were resolved to carry out the policy already defined.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EVELYN GRANT DUFF.

[20425] No. 96.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir F. Bertie.

(No. 64.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, June* 15, 1908.

WITH reference to my immediately preceding telegram, repeating telegram No. 33 from Tangier, it is assumed by His Majesty's Government that the French naval force at Tangier is sufficient to protect the Legations and Europeans should disturbances occur. It would be useful, however, to have definite information on this point, as it is possible that questions may be asked.

[20815] No. 97.

Sir F. Bertie to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 16.)

(No. 22.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Paris, June* 16, 1908.

I HAVE seen the Minister for Foreign Affairs on the subject of the situation at Tangier, referred to in your telegram No. 64 of the 15th instant. His Excellency informs me that the instructions issued in January last by the French Government in regard to the protection of the lives and property of Europeans at Tangier have just been confirmed to General d'Amade. M. Pichon says that all necessary preparations have been made, so that the French naval and military authorities will be in a position to take effective measures if and whenever the Diplomatic Body declare that danger exists, or information reaches the French Government to that effect.

His Excellency hopes that His Majesty's Government will not send a ship to Tangier, there being no necessity for its presence there.

[20815] No. 98.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir F. Bertie.

(No. 68.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, June* 17, 1908.

WITH reference to the last sentence of your telegram No. 22 of the 16th instant, there is no intention on our part of dispatching a war-ship, and the French Government can be so informed.

[21054] No. 99.

Mr. White to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 18.)

(No. 35.)
(Telegraphic.) *Decode.* *Tangier, June* 18, 1908.

HAFID proclaimed by authorities Tetuan last night.

[21338] No. 100.

Mr. White to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 22.)

(No. 139.)
Sir, *Tangier, June* 10, 1908.

DURING my recent visit to the western ports I took the opportunity of talking of the state of affairs in the country with the various Moorish officials I had occasion to meet, as well as with British subjects who have long resided in this country, and are considered to be well informed as to the currents of public opinion among the Moors.

It was difficult, if not impossible, to ascertain the real views of Moorish officials, who were either very reticent and confined themselves to expressing the pious hope that all would go well, and the authority of the Sultan be re-established, or else professed an optimism that could not have been genuine. Disappointment and surprise were sometimes expressed at the French having permitted Mulai Hafid to pass through to Mequinez, when, as they considered, General d'Amade had ample excuse for attacking his force at Meshraa-es-Shair and putting an end to the movement. Their principal hope now appeared to lie in Mulai Hafid exacting heavy contributions from the people of Fez and Mequinez and the adjacent tribes, thus rendering himself unpopular there, and in the Sultan being able to regain Marakesh and the southern tribes. They also expressed anxiety as to the effect the approaching entry of Mulai Hafid into Fez might have upon foreign Powers and especially France. They were confident that if France would loyally stand by the Sultan, His Majesty's cause must prevail in the end, but there were rumours that the French Government were wavering and might recognize Mulai Hafid, in which case the Sultan would be lost, and those who had remained faithful to His Majesty would pay the penalty of their loyalty.

Among British subjects I found great difference of opinion. They, however, agree that even at the ports most of the natives are at heart Hafidist. On the other hand, many are confident that if the great southern Chiefs, Anflus and 'Mtoogi, lend their support, the Sultan's troops at present at Mogador could march to Marakesh and take that place without firing a shot. Unfortunately there is bitter enmity between these two Chiefs, as also between 'Mtoogi and another neighbouring Governor, Gondafi. The Sultan's uncle, Mulai Boubeker, and Hadj Omar Tazzi had been sent to Mogador to endeavour to effect a reconciliation between these Chiefs, and a meeting between them and Anflus took place while I was at Mogador. I saw Hadj Omar Tazzi after the meeting, and he declared that a satisfactory arrangement had been come to, although Anflus had declined to come to any terms with 'Mtoogi. It had been arranged, so Omar Tazzi said, that 'Mtoogi should march on Marakesh with his men, and that the Sultan's troops with cannon, and accompanied by a mounted contingent sent by Anflus, would follow, while Gondafi would take a different line, marching on Marakesh direct from his castle in the Atlas. I inquired whether the loyalty of 'Mtoogi could be counted upon, as many believed that his recent defection from Mulai Hafid was merely a stratagem. Hadj Omar, however, declared that both Anflus and he himself were quite satisfied on that point. In answer to my inquiry as to when the expedition was to start, Hadj Omar stated that he had made a report to the Sultan by telegraph and requested reinforcements and was awaiting instructions. He realized the importance of striking at once, and was anxious that the expedition should leave as soon as possible.

If this expedition does really soon march on Marakesh, and if it is properly supported by these powerful southern Chiefs, there should be no difficulty in obtaining the Sultan's proclamation at Marakesh, which would to some extent, though of course by no means entirely, counterbalance Mulai Hafid's entry into Mequinez and Fez. With Marakesh and the ports, especially if Azemour can also be retaken, the Sultan's position would be by no means hopeless, but I fear no great confidence can be felt that the expedition to Marakesh will not share the fate of the expedition to Fez, that is to say, either not start at all, or, if it starts, only go a short distance and then come to a halt. There is no efficient and energetic leader, the principal object of those in command of such expeditions being generally to enrich themselves and to loot; moreover, it seems unlikely that there can be any efficient co-operation between Anflus, 'Mtoogi, and Gondafi, even if they are all of them really willing to assist the Sultan in retaking Marakesh. Additional troops have, however, been sent to Mogador to join the expedition, and it is possible that the Sultan may be alive to the importance of striking at once, and may send peremptory orders on the subject.

At Mazagan I found the troops sent for the recapture of Azemour encamped near the town, not daring to move. The Ulad Ferj tribe, who had promised their support,

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ALLY WITHOUT PERMISSION OF THE

had decamped as soon as arms and ammunition had been furnished to them. It is, however, reported that a more serious attempt is shortly to be made to take this place, the French troops making a diversion by marching from the north as far as their prescribed limits of action will permit, and probably allowing the Showia Goums, formed and trained by them, to join in the attack. The difficulty in this case also is to find an efficient leader.

Since my return to Tangier I have had some conversation with the French Minister on the general situation, which appeared to cause him considerable uneasiness. He feared that Mulai Hafid might obtain by intrigue his proclamation at Larache or even Tangier, without any open disturbance which could afford an excuse for intervention. If proclaimed at the coast towns, as well as the capitals and in the principal tribes, it would be impossible for France not to recognize Mulai Hafid. He considered, however, that Mulai Hafid would certainly be in the hands of the Germans, and his recognition as Sultan would be disastrous to France; whereas Abdul Aziz had placed himself unreservedly in their hands, and was willing to follow their advice in all matters. Unfortunately the categorical declarations made by his Government in the Chamber tied their hands, and they were forced to exercise the greatest reserve in their support of the Sultan. They would continue to assist His Majesty to strengthen his position as much as possible within the limits that had been laid down, but they found that the Sultan and his Government had little energy or capability of assisting themselves, and missed their opportunities of striking a blow.

M. Regnault added that while they were unable to lend the Sultan any troops, Algerian or others, to march into the interior, they were training bodies of Showia on the Algerian Goum system, and, if found successful, they propose to greatly extend the system so as gradually to form an efficient cavalry force which would be of great use to the Sultan.

The formation of such a force must, however, take some time, and in the meanwhile the position of the Sultan is precarious, the cruel reprisals by Mulai Hafid on the families of the principal adherents of the Sultan having forced many of these, with the full consent of the Sultan, to leave Rabat and, professedly at least, rally to Mulai Hafid's cause. I beg leave to transmit herewith translation of a letter on this subject* addressed by the Acting Vizier for Foreign Affairs to the diplomatic body. The Sultan declared to Kaïd Maclean that horrible tortures are inflicted on the wives and families of His Majesty's adherents, with the object of making them disclose the hiding place of their money and valuables, and also of intimidating their husbands and forcing them to join Mulai Hafid.

The German Minister, on whom I called on my return from the coast, expressed his confidence in Mulai Hafid's ultimate success, and spoke bitterly of the present Makhzen. He observed that he would not dream of applying to the Makhzen on any matter of importance, as it is only to the French Legation that application must be made if anything is required, the Sultan and his Viziers being practically non-existent.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

[21341] No. 101.

Mr. White to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received June* 22.)

(No. 142.)
Sir,
Tangier, June 13, 1908.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a summary of events, based on news received during the past week.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. E. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 101.

Events of the Week.

FOR the present the centre of interest is, of course, Fez, where the Pretender is reported to have arrived on the 7th instant. He was, it appears, accorded a warm

* Not printed.

reception by the people of Fez—in fact, the welcome seems to have been somewhat more enthusiastic than had been expected. No time was lost in appointing a new Governor, Mulai Hafid's brother-in-law, Hosein Zayani, being selected for this important post, doubtless as a reward for the services of his father, the Kaïd of Zian, who had secured a safe passage for Mulai Hafid through the wild Berber tribes under his jurisdiction. Ben Abdessadek, a former Governor and Ambassador to London, has been appointed Deputy-Governor. No doubt these appointments have been made by Mulai Hafid with a view to strengthening his cause, as, in the event of discontent at Fez, the new Governor will be able to rely upon the assistance of a large body of Berber tribesmen, while Ben Abdessadek is extremely popular with the people of the northern capital. Taxes are already being paid at Mequinez, apparently without demur, and the people of Fez will not long remain immune from taxation. The arrival of Bagdadi at the Court of Mulai Hafid is now reported, and it is stated that the system of threats, of which he was the first notable victim, has now been extended to Hadj Omar Tazzi, who has been threatened with the imprisonment of his relatives at Fez if he does not at once throw in his lot with Mulai Hafid.

New Kaïds have also been appointed to the Beni Hassan and Gharb provinces, with instructions to obey the orders of Mohammed-el-Shergui, who is to advance at the head of a Mehalla upon Alcazar, in order to secure the proclamation there of Mulai Hafid.

Vice-Consul Wilkinson reports that a further reinforcement of 500 troops has arrived at Mogador to strengthen the force which is to march on Marakesh. Not much progress has yet been made in the efforts to reconcile Kaïds Anflus and 'Mtoogi, but it appears that some arrangement has been come to as a result of the negotiations of Hadj Omar Tazzi, by which some measure of co-operation will be secured. More troops are expected shortly, and as soon as the force is strong enough to make an impression on the tribes, whose support is anticipated, it will start for Marakesh.

There is nothing of interest to report at Casa Blanca.

[21461] No. 102.

Sir F. Bertie to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received June* 22.)

(No. 246.)
Sir,
Paris, June 20, 1908.

A DEBATE on Moroccan affairs took place yesterday in the Chamber of Deputies. Three interpellations had been announced by M. Gervais, M. Deschanel, and M. Jaurès respectively. The first two speakers did not directly attack the policy of the Ministry, but confined themselves to seeking for information on various points, indicating the difficulties of, and generally reviewing, the situation. M. Jaurès followed M. Deschanel in the tribune. He requested the Minister for Foreign Affairs to acquaint the Chamber with the tenour of the communications made to the Powers respecting the instructions to Generals d'Amade and Lyautey. M. Pichon replied that he would at once read to the House the text of the instructions to the Generals, and stated that they had been made known to the signatories of the Algeciras Act. I inclose herein, extracted from the "Journal Officiel" of to-day's date, the text of these instructions.* Those addressed to General d'Amade are of special interest; they deal with the establishment of detached military posts, in the Chaouia district for purposes of defence and pacification, and they indicate the desire of the French Government to provide for the constitution of some native authority in the disturbed region which may eventually render possible the retirement from the interior of the French forces of occupation. The instructions to General Lyautey deal chiefly with the execution of the Franco-Moroccan engagements respecting frontier matters; General Lyautey is appointed High Commissioner, and he is informed that the Moroccan Government will be asked to appoint a similar official on their side to co-operate with General Lyautey and to reside at Oudja.

After M. Pichon had read the instructions above mentioned, M. Jaurès continued his speech. He was at first applauded by the House for declaring that, while France was passionately attached to peace, she would allow no one to interfere with her liberty of action at home, or with her freedom in the matter of contracting alliances abroad. His further observations, however, soon brought him into collision with M. Pichon. M. Jaurès had stated that the French Government were going beyond the Act of

* Not printed.

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Algeciras, and that they would be called back to it. M. Pichon protested against such language in the most vehement manner. Later in his speech M. Jaurès' observations with regard to the communication to the German Government of the instructions to Generals d'Amade and Lyautey led M. Pichon to exclaim: "Je ne sais qui vous a autorisé à parler au nom de l'Allemagne comme vous le faites; jamais ses représentants ne m'ont tenu un langage qui puisse justifier le vôtre."

The Socialists in the Chamber objected to this remark of M. Pichon as constituting an insult to their leader, and the debate was for the time being interrupted as a result of this incident. At the end of M. Jaurès' speech M. Pichon explained that his remark was not intended as an insult to M. Jaurès, and was qualified by the words he had added, but which had not been listened to. He proceeded to give explanations with regard to the instructions to the Generals, and he laid stress on the desire of the French Government to take steps to expedite the pacification of the Casa Blanca district and the eventual constitution, in agreement with Spain, of the police force at that port. His Excellency devoted a considerable portion of his speech to the question of the struggle between Mulai Hafid and Abdul Aziz. The original instructions given to the French Representatives in Morocco had been confirmed, namely, that they were not to intervene in the conflict between the actual Sultan and Mulai Hafid, or any other Pretender. If any *de facto* authorities not obeying the actual Sultan were established in any of the ports, relations should be entered into with them for the purpose of safeguarding foreigners there. It was not for France or any other Power to take isolated action in recognizing a new Sovereign in Morocco. It was for the Powers signatory to the Algeciras Act to weigh the question if it should come up.

Much of M. Pichon's speech was couched in an optimistic vein. He spoke of the progress of the work of reform, of the drawing up by the Diplomatic Body at Tangier of the Regulations contemplated by the Act of Algeciras, and he alluded to the satisfactory settlement of commercial rivalries with other Powers, especially with Germany. He declared that it was his firm opinion that the action of France, which had been forced on her by events, had resulted in extending her influence in Morocco and in strengthening her authority.

The debate was concluded by M. Denys Cochin, one of the principal speakers on foreign affairs on the Right of the House. He reproached the Government with having shown weakness, both in military and diplomatic matters, and advocated a forward policy in Morocco.

The Chamber then passed the following Order of the day by 343 votes to 126:—

"La Chambre, confiante dans le Gouvernement pour assurer, sans intervention dans la politique intérieure de l'Empire Chérifien, la défense des droits et de la dignité de la France au Maroc, conformément à l'Acte d'Algésiras, passe à l'ordre du jour."

I inclose herein the text of M. Pichon's speech.*

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS BERTIE.

[22296] No. 103.

Mr. White to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received June* 29.)

(No. 143.)
Tangier, June 19, 1908.

Sir,

WITH reference to Sir G. Lowther's despatches Nos. 109 and 121 of the 14th and 26th ultimo, I have the honour to report that the International Commission held its first sitting at Casa Blanca on the 17th instant, when the Vice-Presidents and Secretary were elected. The Commission is composed as follows:—

President.—The First Moorish Delegate, Mulai-el-Amin, grand-uncle of the Sultan.
First Vice-President.—The French Delegate, M. Herbaux, Conseiller à la Cour de Cassation.
Second Vice-President.—The Spanish Delegate, M. Cuartero, Adjoint de Procureur-Général à la Cour de Cassation.

* Not printed.

Members.

Morocco.—Hadj-el-Hassan-el-Ghassal and Sid Sadik Ahardan.
Great Britain.—Mr. W. H. Thorne, Barrister-at-Law.
Germany.—Dr. Vassel, Doctor of Laws, Consul at Fez.
Italy.—Commander L. Bettoni, Conseiller à la Cour de Cassation.
Portugal.—Dr. Armando Navarro, Consul-General at Cadiz and Commercial Attaché at Madrid.

In addition to the above, the following gentlemen have been appointed to sit on the Commission when the claims of their nationals are considered:—

Belgium.—Comte H. de Laubespin, Secretary of Legation at Tangier.
Netherlands.—Jonkheer de Jonge, Vice-Consul attached to the Legation at Tangier.
Sweden.—M. Pröbster, Acting "Drogman" of German Legation at Tangier, which represents Swedish interests.

The United States have not yet appointed their Delegate, but it is probable that they will name Mr. Philip, Secretary of Legation and Consul-General here, who is expected shortly to return from leave.

Danish interests being intrusted to this Legation, and there being five Danish claims, all of them put forward by native employés of the Danish Vice-Consulate at Casa Blanca, I asked Mr. Consul Madden to request Mr. Thorne to be good enough to watch Danish claims, as there is no one here available to appoint as Danish Delegate.

At its opening meeting the International Commission decided to entertain no claims not presented before the 20th July.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

[22297] No. 104.

Mr. White to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received June* 29.)

(No. 144.)
Tangier, June 20, 1908.

Sir,

THE proclamation of Mulai Hafid at Alcazar has been followed by his proclamation by most of the northern tribes and by the town of Tetuan. At Alcazar there was some disturbance, the commander of the troops, a son of the celebrated Algerian Emir Abdelkader, and some of the troops remaining loyal. He was, however, treacherously seized and overpowered, being also slightly wounded, and has been sent in chains to Fez. The Governor, Kaïd Ermiki, who had been trusted by the Sultan, left for Fez at the head of the troops, accompanied by some of the town Notables, bearing the Act of Submission and a sum of 50,000 dollars. Kaïd Bu Auda, who has been appointed Governor of Arzila and neighbouring tribes, and is in command of the force in that district, was invited by Kaïd Ermiki to join the insurrectionary movement and take his troops to Fez. He is, however, temporizing, and it is uncertain what course he will adopt.

The proclamation of Mulai Hafid at Tetuan passed off quite peacefully, there being no signs of any anti-Christian feeling, nor have the police been interfered with, the Spanish Instructors being requested to continue their work. In fact, the Vice-Consul reports that one would not know that anything unusual had happened. The Governor is reported to have at first opposed the movement, but eventually decided to swim with the tide. He retains his post for the present, but another official has been appointed to act with him.

The news of what had occurred at Tetuan naturally raised the hopes of Hafidists at Tangier, and it was believed that a meeting was to be held in the mosque. Sid Guebbas, however, immediately brought troops into the town, and the movement was nipped in the bud. Precautions were also taken to prevent any surprise at the Friday prayers yesterday. The town remains perfectly quiet, and there is no alarm among the Christian and Jewish population, and indeed there is no cause for alarm, as the movement, so far as the people are concerned, is in no way anti-Christian, the former preaching of a holy war having raised no enthusiasm, the people having no taste for any adventure of that kind after the experience of Casa Blanca and Showia.

The commencement of the building of the police barracks about 1½ miles outside the town has to a certain extent revived the hostility of the neighbouring tribes to the

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police, and it is said that meetings are to be held to discuss the question as to whether steps should be taken to prevent the construction of the barracks. It is scarcely likely, however, that any serious trouble will arise on this account.

In the meantime Mulai Hafid is settling down at Fez and forming his Government. Kaïd Madani-el-Glawi, the powerful Atlas Chief, who has been his principal supporter, has been made Grand Vizier; while his brother, Thami-el-Glawi, at present Governor of Marakesh, has been named Minister of War; Kaïd Aissa-ben-Omar, Vizier for Foreign Affairs; Sid Taib Tazi, brother of Sheikh Tazi, the Sultan's Vizier of Finance, has been given the same office by Mulai Hafid. An appointment which cannot but be distasteful to the people of Fez is the naming as their Governor of the son of the powerful Berber chieftain Akka Hamu Zayani, by whose assistance Mulai Hafid was able to reach Mequinez. A sop has, however, been given to them in the appointment of their former very popular Governor as Lieutenant-Governor.

The Legations have been officially informed of Mulai Hafid's arrival at Fez by a letter from Kaïd Aissa-ben-Omar, translation of which I have the honour to transmit herewith.*

While the cause of Mulai Hafid is steadily gaining ground, I regret that I am unable to report any improvement in the position of the Sultan. The expedition which was to retake Marakesh seems no nearer starting from Mogador than it was before. Some friction has occurred between Hadj Omar Tazi and Kaïd Anflus, who is said to have now refused to take any part in the expedition, and to have returned to his home refusing to accept presents sent to him by Hadj Omar.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

[22301] No. 105.

Mr. White to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 29.)

(No. 148.)
Tangier, June 21, 1908.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith translation of a letter received by Mr. Consul Macleod from his Arabic Interpreter reporting the arrival of two Englishmen, alleged to be Emissaries from His Majesty's Government.

On the 11th instant the Consular Agent at Alcazar wrote to inform me that two Englishmen, accompanied by Mr. Redman, a British merchant at Mazagan, had arrived from Gibraltar viâ Larache and were proceeding to Fez. Mr. Carleton did not mention their names, nor the object of their intended visit to Fez. Upon receipt of Mr. Carleton's letter, I at once instructed him to call the special attention of these gentlemen to the warning issued in April last, but I have heard nothing further from Mr. Carleton on the subject.

It is difficult to say whether these travellers have alleged that they are Emissaries of His Majesty's Government to give themselves importance and ensure a good reception, or whether the report originated with Mulai Hafid and his officials, and is intended to lead the people to believe that His Majesty's Government have recognized him, or at any rate are in negotiation with him.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 105.

Hadj Tahir Mikwar to Consul Macleod.

(Translation.)
(After compliments.)
Fez, June 15, 1908.

A LETTER, of which the following is a copy, has been sent to me by the Vizir Glawi:—

"(After compliments.)

"The Sultan has ordered me to find accommodation for two Englishmen, who have been sent by their Government, and to accord them every attention, without

* Not printed.

being sparing; and to choose such quarters as are fitting for them, and not to be sparing [of myself] therein nor delay, for our Lord the Sultan commands this strictly. Peace.

(Signed) "MACANI AL GLAWI.

"14*th Jumad*, 1326."

I answered as follows:—

"I have no news of any Englishmen, and had they been from the Government I should have heard from Tangier, and so I have nothing to do with the matter [of accommodating them]; but, still, I have a good place, and if they wish to hire it they may do so. But other than that I cannot do.

"*June* 15, 1908."

After I sent that letter the Vizir spoke to me at some length, which conversation I will inform you of in French.

I beg to have your ideas on the matter.

(Later.)

The Christians referred to have just arrived, and have been received with great attention, but I have not seen them yet.

[22357] No. 106.

Mr. White to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 29.)

(No. 150.)
Tangier, June 23, 1908.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 148 of the 22nd instant, I have the honour to inform you that the three English travellers at present at Fez give their names as Mr. Charles Beadle, of the "Topical Press," Captain A. Belton, and Mr. William Redman, correspondent of the "Standard."

The last named is a merchant at Mazagan, son of a former British Vice-Consul at that place. He has lived all his life in this country and speaks Arabic. I have no information in regard to Captain A. Belton, whose name does not appear in this year's Army List. It would appear from a letter addressed to this Legation, copy of which I beg to inclose herewith, that Mr. Beadle is known to the Foreign Office.

Mr. Consul Macleod has been informed by his native interpreter at Fez that these gentlemen have been treated by Mulai Hafid as though they were really on a mission from His Majesty's Government. A house has been hired and furnished for them, and a special "amin," or administrator, appointed to pay all expenses necessary for their entertainment.

The report which will doubtless be disseminated by Mulai Hafid and his adherents, that His Majesty's Government have sent a special Mission to meet him at Fez, will not fail to add to Mulai Hafid's prestige among the tribes. I have requested Mr. Macleod to instruct his interpreter to let it be known at Fez that the three gentlemen in question have no official position whatever, but are mere travellers. Mr. Macleod will, however, instruct his interpreter at the same time to be careful that no harm befall them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 106.

Lord Mountmorres to Mr. White.

5, Central Chambers, South Castle Street, Liverpool, June 4, 1908.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith a letter addressed to Mr. Charles Beadle, who has been staying in Tangier. He is leaving to-day, and is likely to be absent from Tangier for about a fortnight. On his return, about the 17th of this month, his address will be Hotel Cavilla, Tangier.

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As I have reason to fear that if the letter lies there it may be tampered with by persons into whose hands I am particularly anxious it should not fall, I should esteem it a very great favour if your Excellency would see that this letter safely reaches Mr. Beadle.

Your Excellency will probably have received from the Foreign Office, prior to the receipt of this letter, information which will indicate to you my reason for being anxious as to the safety of the accompanying letter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MOUNTMORRES.

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END

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